

Inked

CULTURE. STYLE. ART.

THE ART AND DESIGN ISSUE

PLUS:

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KURT SUTTER**

**THE INKED
MUSIC TOUR
WITH ALESANA**

**THE NEXT
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NOT PICTURED:

Chinese SWEATSHOP.

Night Rider

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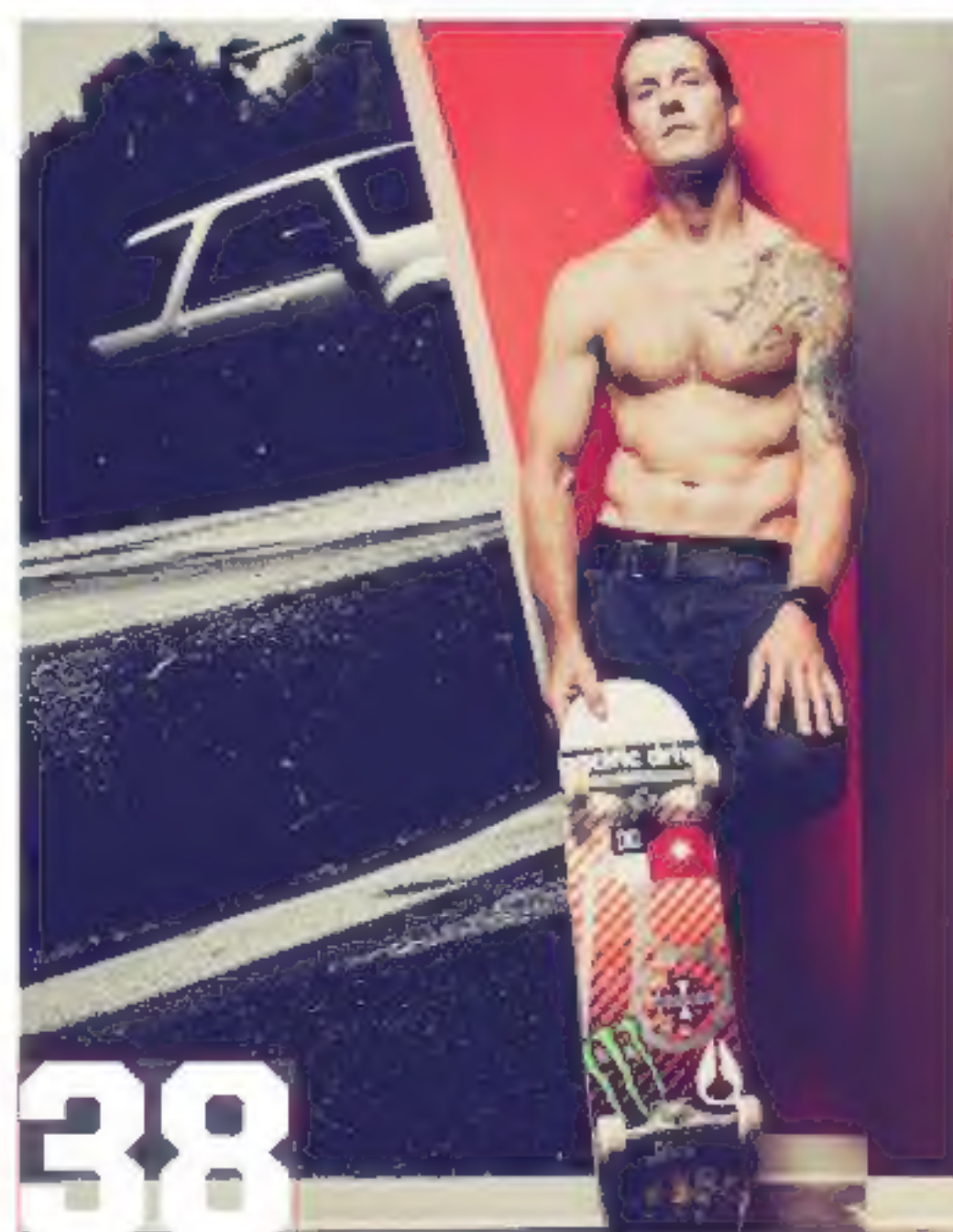
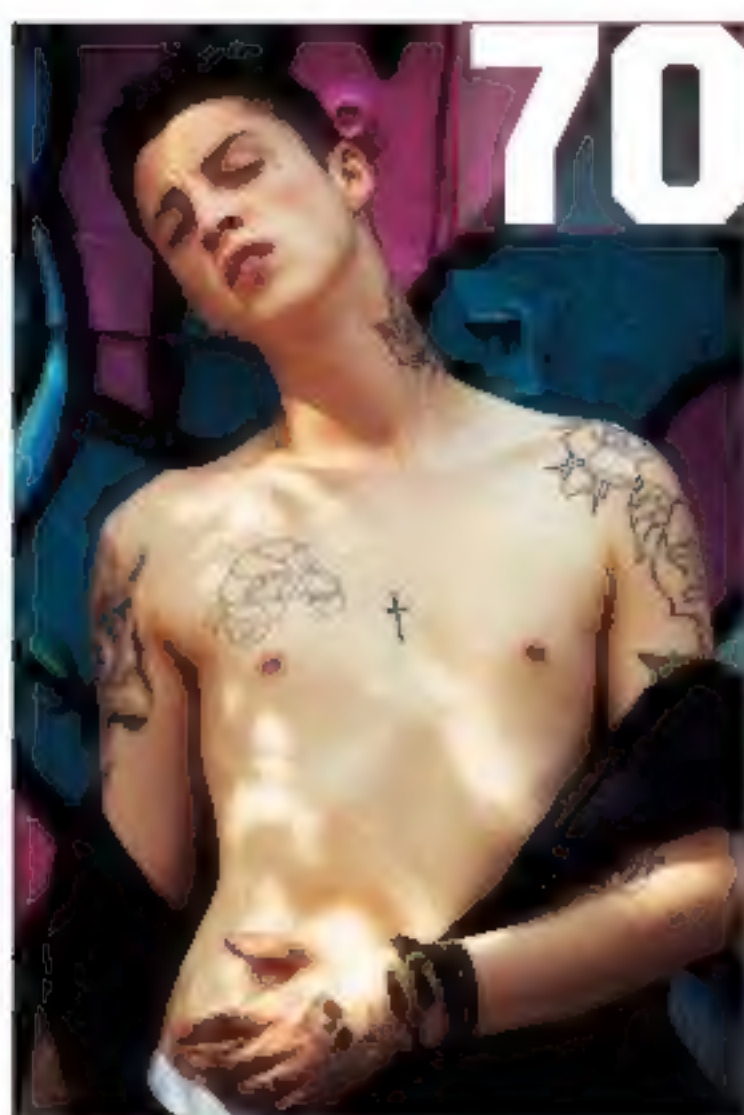
RED-BLOODED AMERICANS.

BY AMERICANS WHO

BLEED THE SAME RED.



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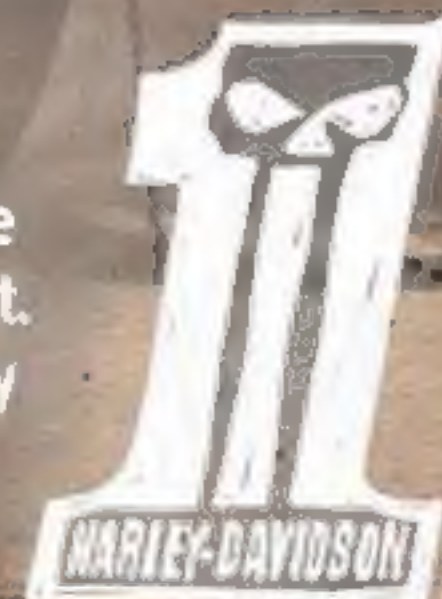


@NocturnalFeeder @kdoylem1989 #StereotypicalHarley

SMOKE BREAK



Smoke 'em if you've
got 'em. Be independent.
#StereotypicalHarley



DarkCustom.com



Harley-Davidson® Forty-Eight® with Hard Candy Custom™ Black and Silver Flake paint. Right: the new Street Bob™ with custom red wheels.
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Burnouts look great on film but in the real world are hard on tires, wheels, and other mechanical parts.

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CIGARETTES

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VOTE
NOVEMBER 6



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Inked

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magazine office	inked magazine 12 west 27th st., 10th floor new york, ny 10001
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INKED, ISSN (1555-8630) Issue 49, is published monthly except combined issue in June/
July & Dec/Jan by Quadra Media, LLC 12 West 27th St, 10th floor, New York, NY 10001.
Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Inked Magazine, P.O. Box 8607, Ft. Lauderdale,
FL 33310-9965.

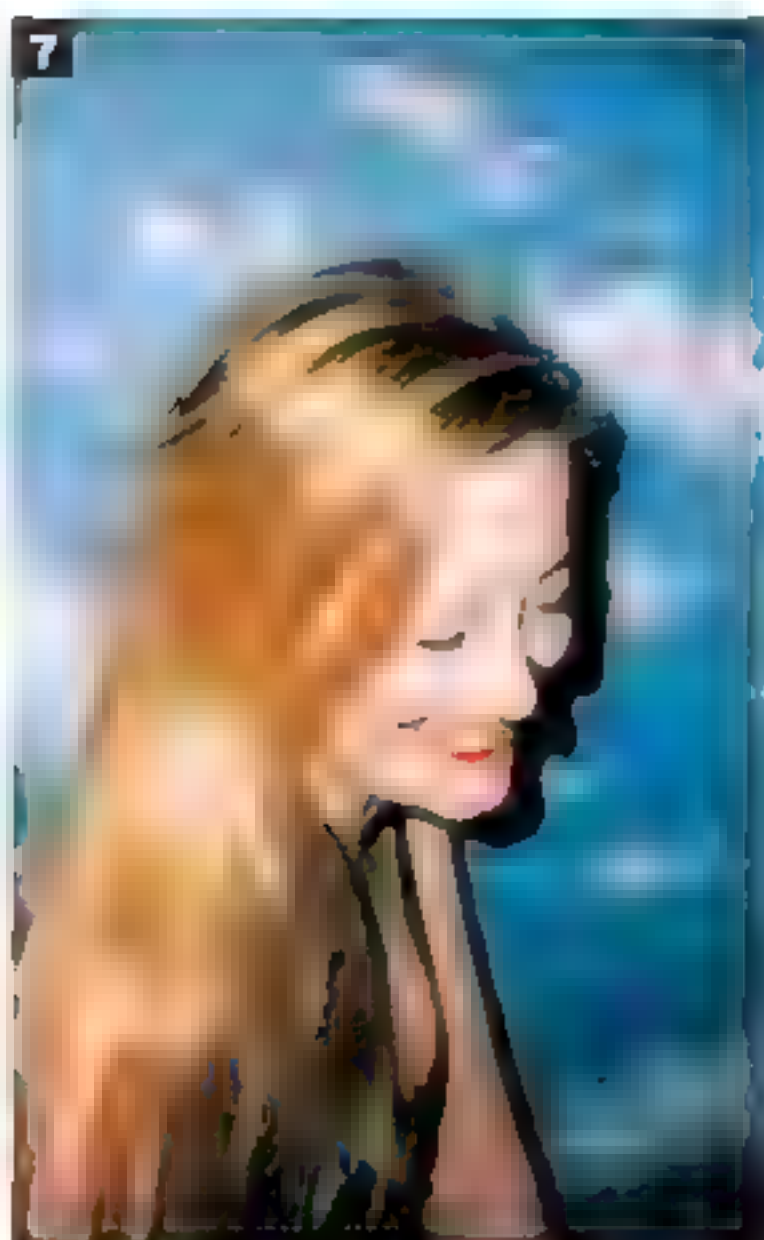
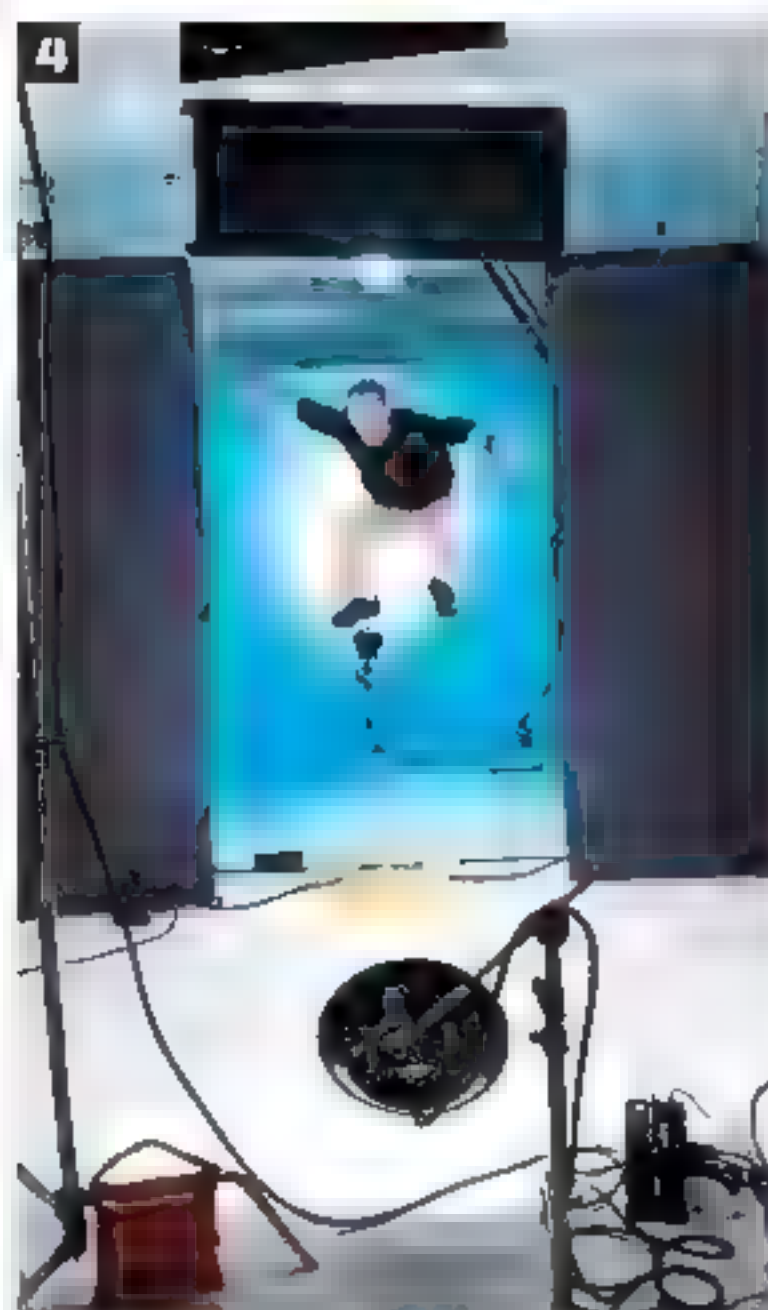
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ink well

My childhood bedroom was covered in posters. Among them I had Bo Jackson's "The Ball Player," a Ferrari Testarossa, and one of those motivational posters that included a nondescript football player with a Vince Lombardi quote. Now, as an older teenager, my walls are filled with art, photography, and ephemera. That transition is akin to a progression of taste in tattoos. Most start with flash—like a poster, a piece of flash is intended to appeal to the masses and printed off with the same voracity—and then when one matures, he moves on to custom tattoo art. In this, our Art Issue, we focus on high art in general and real tattoo artists.

For an art project, street team Amanda Lynn and Lady Mags used Inked Girl Jesse Lee Denning as a muse for their INKED mural in New York City, which was shot by Laura Crosta (1). Another photographer who took to the pavement of New York was Kristina Wilson (7), who presents our visually stunning fashion feature of model Ash Stymest juxtaposed with pieces of art visible on the street. Our still life fashion is inspired by Americana (before whitey) and was composed by Chris Gorman (3), who set silver jewelry and Navajo patterns against arrows and indigenous birch.

Bryan Regan (4) trained his lens on the tattoo art of The INKED Magazine Music Tour band Aesana, and LeAnn Mueller (8) captured the genius of *Sons of Anarchy* creator Kurt Sutter.

To introduce themselves to the public and to show off their skills, I (2) asked the contestants of the new season of Spike's *Ink Master* to create self-portraits. Mariel Zayas-Bazan (5) talked to well-established tattoo artists who also excel off the skin in "Fine Line." And Marco Annunziata (6) picked the brain of legendary tattoo artist Fip Buchanan. The Icon, who has been tattooing since the '70s, has seen trends of tattoo art come in and out of style, and then back in again.

Recently I was sitting at a bar with a friend who has tight custom ink. He gawked at an older cat covered in faded flash. "I wish I had his tattoos," my buddy said. I looked at him funny until he continued, "Flash wasn't cool when I first started getting tattooed, but now they are hipper than mine." The message to me is that art is cyclical. You might have a piece you regret ... but give it a decade. Also, the soul of ephemera can trump modern art—so enjoy this aesthetically arresting issue, and excuse me while I rehang my vintage Brian Bosworth poster.

Rocky Rakovic

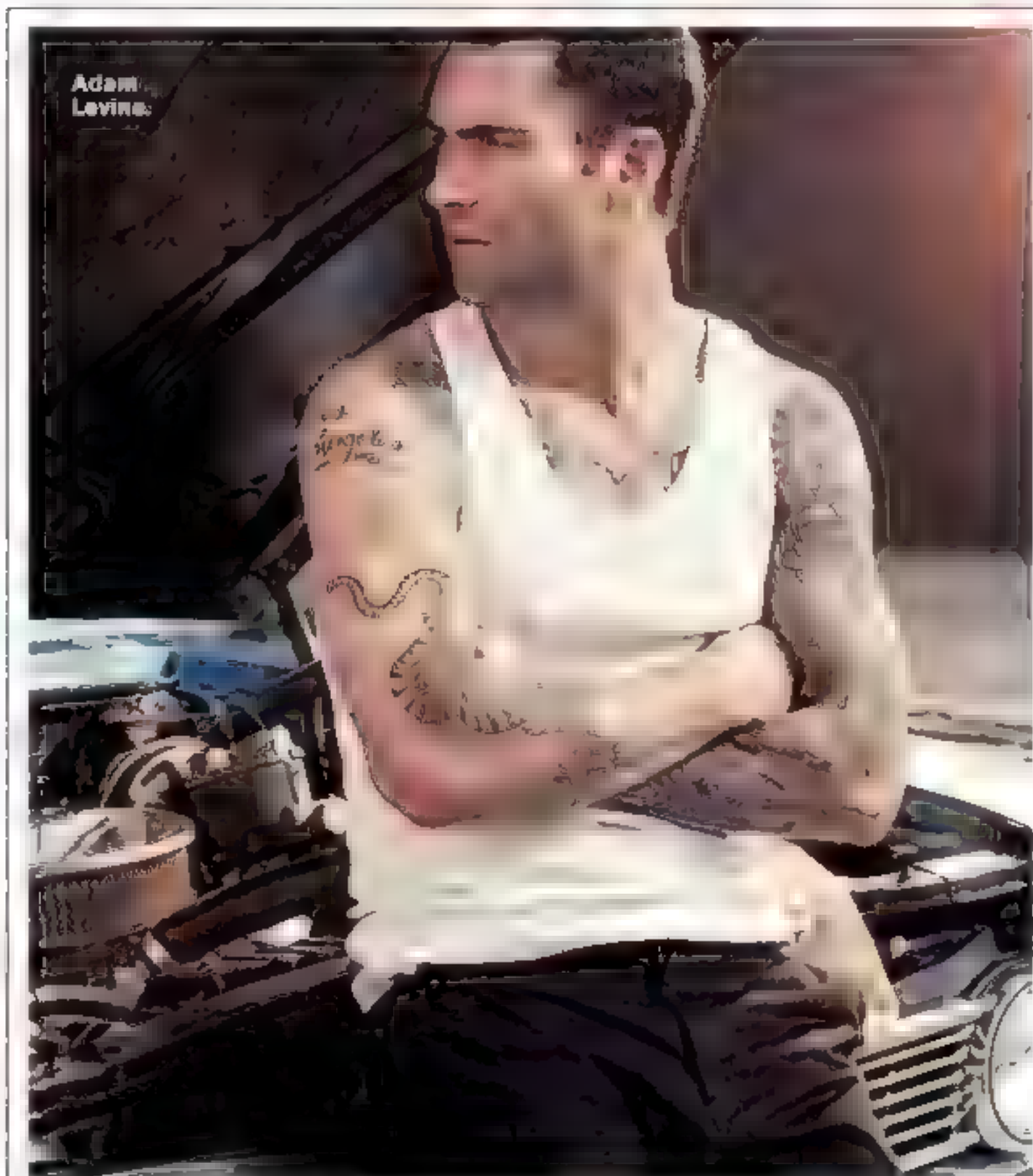
Editor



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mail



THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Thank you for putting Adam Levine on the cover of INKED. I don't care for Maroon 5, but he is yummy and has great tattoos. If you watch *The Voice* you'll notice that all of the judges have ink, and they come from the pop, hip-hop, and country worlds. It goes to show you that we are one nation under INKED.

Carrie Foster, Nashville, TN

GOOD WORK

I am an organ procurement and transplant coordinator; I work with families and care for patients in the hopes of making something good come out of tragic loss. Many of my colleagues have tattoos, including myself (with growing sleeves). And though Indiana Organ Procurement Organization supports my choice to have tattoos, I am occasionally asked to cover up in compli-

ance with a hospital's policy, but the IOPO has told them it's up to me. It has been my experience that the majority of people are accepting of my work. I also explain to those who question my appearance, if I was trying to save their life, or if I am consoling a family member in their darkest hour, does it really matter that I have tattoos?

Matthew E. Wingler, PTC
Indianapolis

facebook

ADAM LEVINE

DINA PEREZ PERFECT Inked cover.

BRIT MAE Beautiful man with beautiful tattoos. There should be a love button =)

CHEYENNE GOODTIME I love Maroon 5. That is my jam. Adam is amazing Love the "mom" tattoo.

RAVEN SNOE It's moments like this when I think maybe ... just maybe there is a God that loves us.

MARTINA ECHOLON KOTTIEH M.

Levine, you're way too hot for this planet. Just saying ...

SANDY WILLIAMS Someone got a napkin handy ... so delicious!!!

NEDN HITCH

NICK KONNFORMM I almost dropped my pint!!!!!!

U SERENITY PERDOMO You don't have to have a trillion huge tattoos to be on Inked ... just saying.

TONI O'BRIEN Wow, she has intoxicating eyes

BRENDA SALAZAR Love the hair!

PATTN CHER My soulmate?

STEVIE JOHNSON

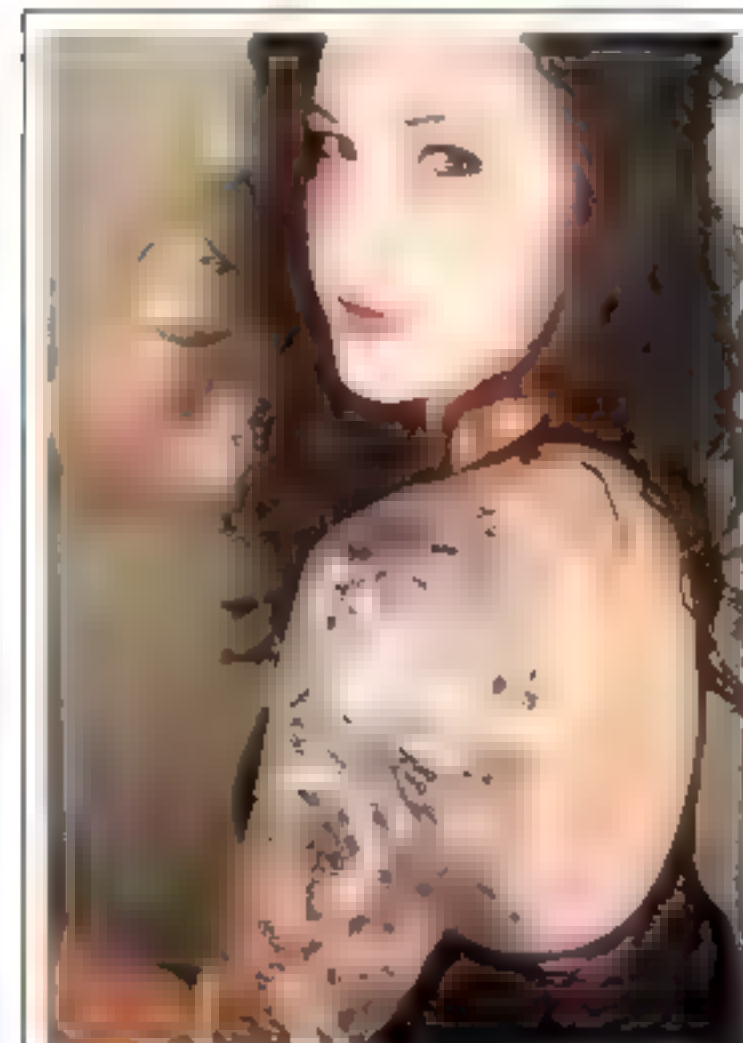
CHRISTINA AYALA DAMN ... He be the sexy!!!!

ROSA CORONA Now that's what I like. Sexy chocolate man in tattoos

INKED GIRL RYAN

JASON STAMBONI Damn, there is something captivating about this ... me gusto.

DANA BALCIUNAS She looks delicate and badass at the same time



READER OF THE MONTH

VANESSA MARINO
TAMPA, FL

Want to be a Reader of the Month?
Email photos to inkedgirl@inkedmag.com.



TATTOO OF THE MONTH

BY: STEVE GILLESPIE, WITCH CITY INK, SALEM, MA.
ON: AMANDA MORLEY



WRITE US. Got something to say? Send all praise, notes of complaint,

story suggestions, and other comments to letters@inkedmag.com. All submissions should include the writer's name and address. Letters may be edited for clarity, length, and content. Also join the party at facebook.com/inkedmag.

MY FAVORITE INK

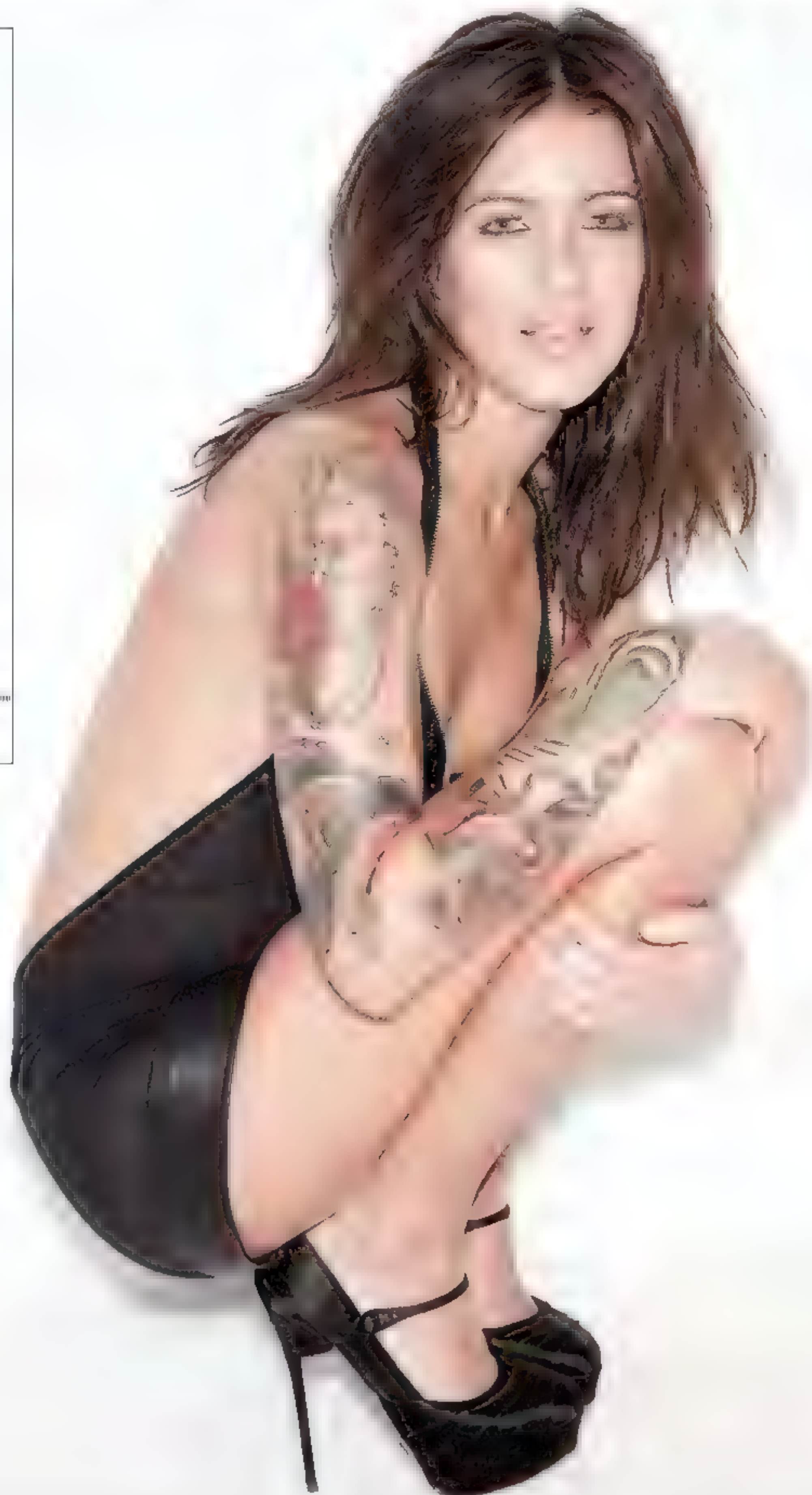
Name: Whitney Anne Christow

Occupation: model and bartender

Hometown: Rahway, NJ

"I've listened to Bad Brains all my life, so I really wanted a Bad Brains tattoo. I got the letters PMA going up from my hand to my wrist—that way I could see it every day. If I ever get pissed or bummed out I'll just look at it and think, Positive Mental Attitude. I got the tattoo after my secure luxury apartment got robbed. I was very upset, but mostly I felt violated—it was not a good feeling. Regardless, I realized that what was taken from me were just material items, so I accepted it, moved on, and got the tattoo I had been wanting from Jorel at The Honorable Society in West Hollywood. It's really just my motto on how I live my life."

PHOTO BY JUSTIN HYTE





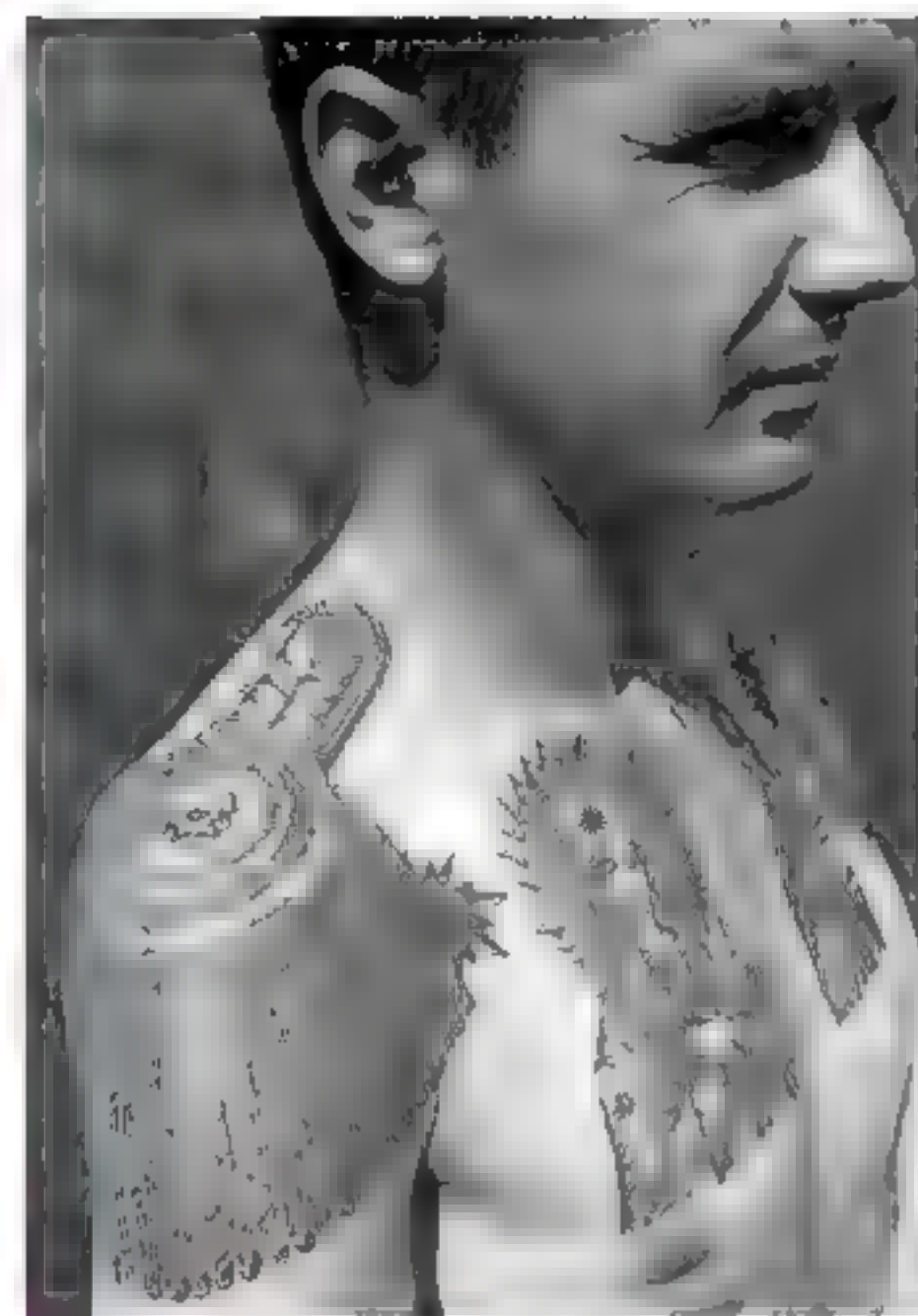
NO SMALL WONDER

David Arquette may be 41, but certain childhood obsessions never die, and that explains why Arquette decided to tattoo the immortal vixen Wonder Woman on his ribs. In an ode to his youth and humanistic ideals, the actor tattooed a foot-long clip from the vintage comic strip. In the old-school illustration he debuted to Bethenny Frankel on her daytime talk show, *Bethenny*, Wonder Woman stoically proclaims, "It takes real character to admit one's failures—and not a little wisdom to take your profits from defeat, but remember, this man's world of yours will never be without pain and suffering until it learns love...."



BADGE OF HONOR

At Comic-Con in San Diego, Epic Games delivered an announcement as huge as their name—*Gears of War: Judgment* will be released March 19, 2013. To revel in the accomplishment, Comic-Con attendees were welcomed to hands-on, multiplayer sessions at the Xbox Lounge in San Diego's Hard Rock Hotel, and one die-hard fan walked away with ink. Waldo Kinne received a detailed tattoo of the COG (Coalition of Ordered Governments) on his right thigh. The piece, tattooed by the skilled Steve Soto, reveals the Crimson Omen. Intricately placed in the center of the COG tag lies a Locust skull, uniting the design in dedicated brutality. Now that's a battle scar.



MURDER INK

In the pantheon of bad-guy tattoos, the Russians may have the darkest and most interesting. Galerie Max Hetzler delves into deep history and symbolism from the red state in *Original Works from the Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopaedia*, presented by Fuel. From Christ-like thorns inked around a forehead to a dagger made to look like it was pierced through the neck tattooed on another degenerate's shoulders—amplified by the raw and grainy photographs of Sergei Vasiliev—the exhibit is truly as badass as it sounds. The latest run of the exhibit has ended, but you can take a virtual tour on maxhetzler.com.





OG *Libel*

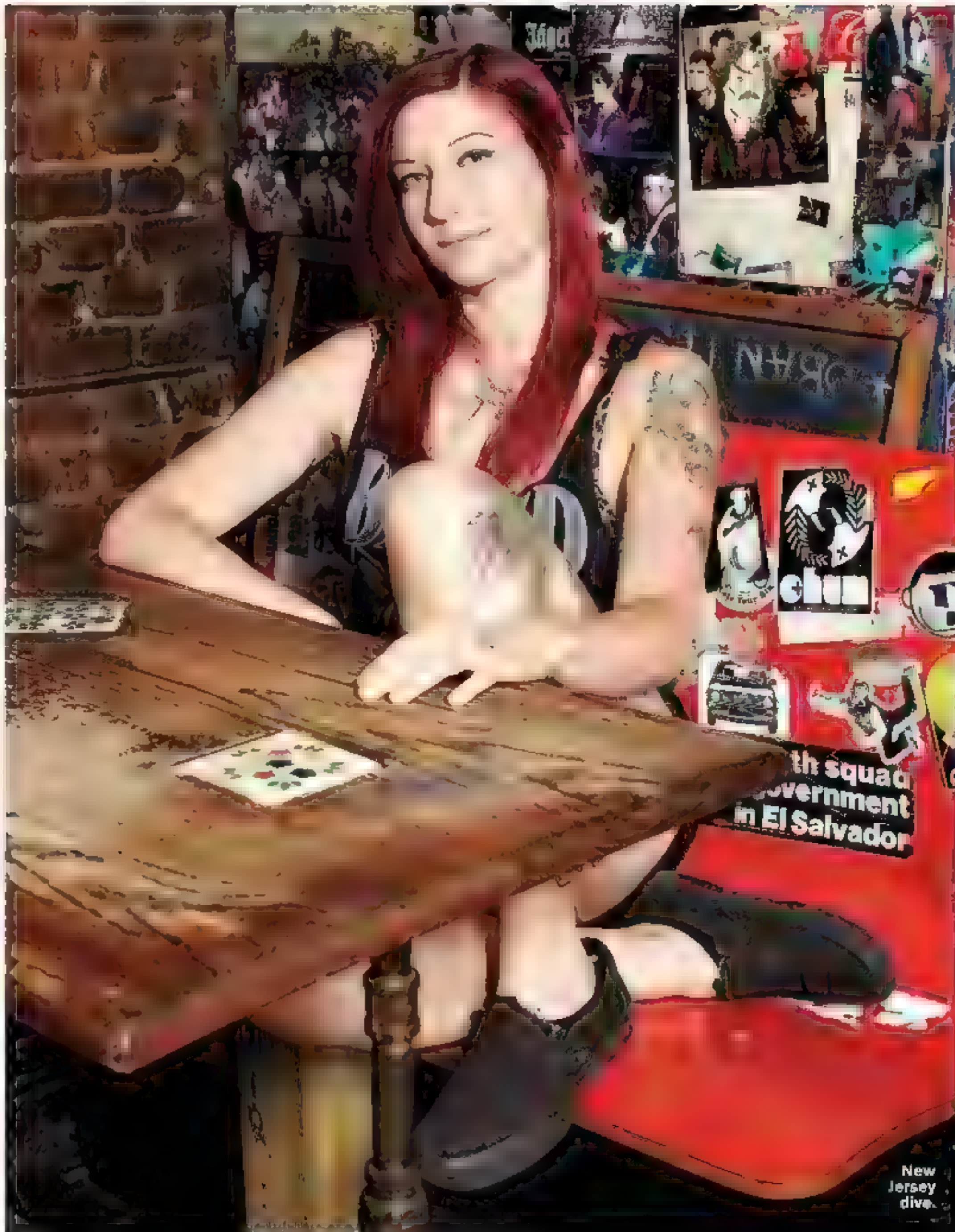
LIBEL

LIBEL

LIBEL



LIBEL



...AND A BOTTLE OF FUN

Good drinking comes in awesome packages.

What runs through your mind as you attempt to choose a booze? Too often have I found myself traipsing up and down the aisles of my local liquor store gazing into the glass of each bottle like the foggy window of my favorite late night haunt. It may be time to make a decision, but I have almost no information to go on. I can't smell the elixir within, and taste testing is forbidden at this particular establishment. The only tools I've got at my disposal are my eyes and my gut. Some distillers try to dole up their libations with bottles shaped like boots, cats, and

tommy guns, while others miss the mark (like Frangelico, whose bottle looks like Mrs. Butterworth's). Either way, a bottle's package has much more to do with our selection than we'd like to think. In an attempt to draw the eye, some of our favorite hooch mongers have dressed up their labels with designs from members of the art world that they feel embody their true spirit. These tricked-out designs grab your eye from across the room. Some say you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, but you can undoubtedly choose a booze by the label. —Nick Fierro

COCKTAIL CONVERSATION

A chat with Alexis Shields of Lucky 7s in Jersey City, NJ

How would you describe Lucky 7s? It reminds me of the fun dive bars you find in the city [New York City]. It's the only bar in downtown Jersey City that's divey—is that a word?—without being sketchy.

What do you serve the most of? Pabst Blue Ribbon, Yuengling, and Jameson. We have a lot of different specials every night of the week, so it also depends on that.

Do any patrons try new liquors or beers based on the bottle? I think so. If they don't try it, they definitely ask about it. The Hudson Whiskeys are in adorable little bottles, so we get a lot of questions about them, as well as Full Sail's Session Lagers, which are also in cute, stubby bottles. Adorable packaging goes a long way.

How much of your clientele is tattooed? It's a very diverse crowd. I'd say the majority have at least one or two, but it ranges from people who are heavily tattooed to people who have none.

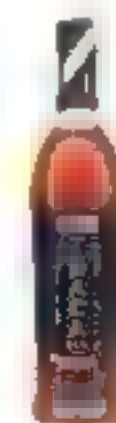
How much of the staff is tattooed? There is only one bartender who has no tattoos, but we still love him.

Any advice to someone going to Lucky 7s for the first time? Always tip your bartenders well so we can get more tattoos!



ABSOLUT ROCK EDITION

This vodka company seemingly updates its bottle design as much as Google changes its homepage art. Of the thousands, our favorite is the Rock Edition, which comes shrouded in leather and spiked with metal studs.



TUACA

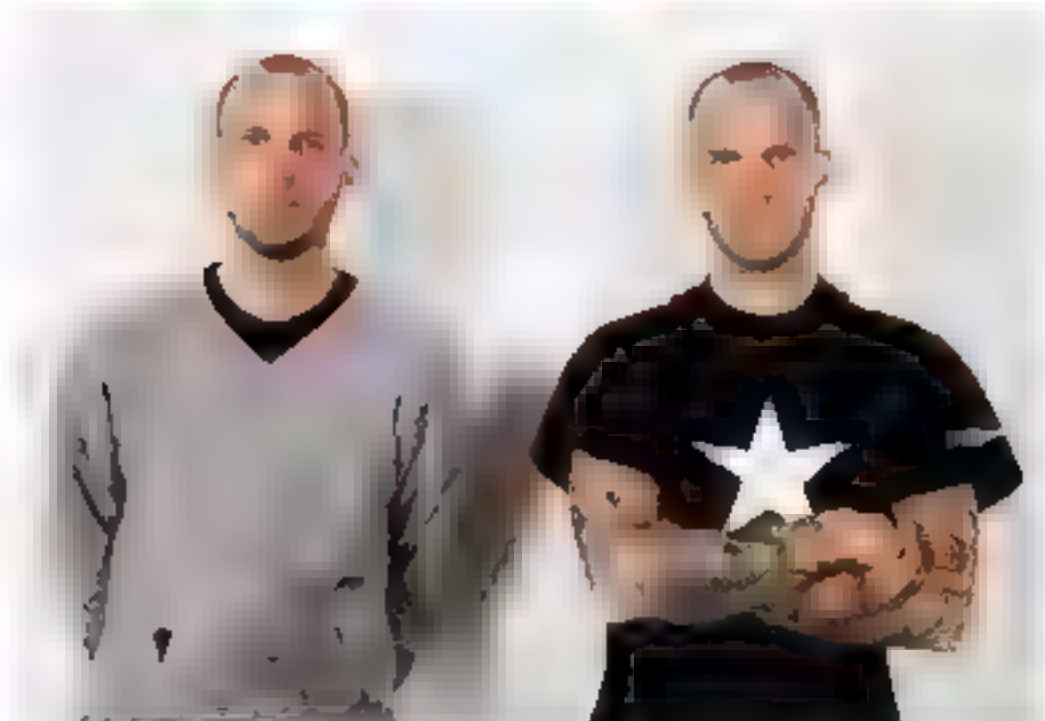
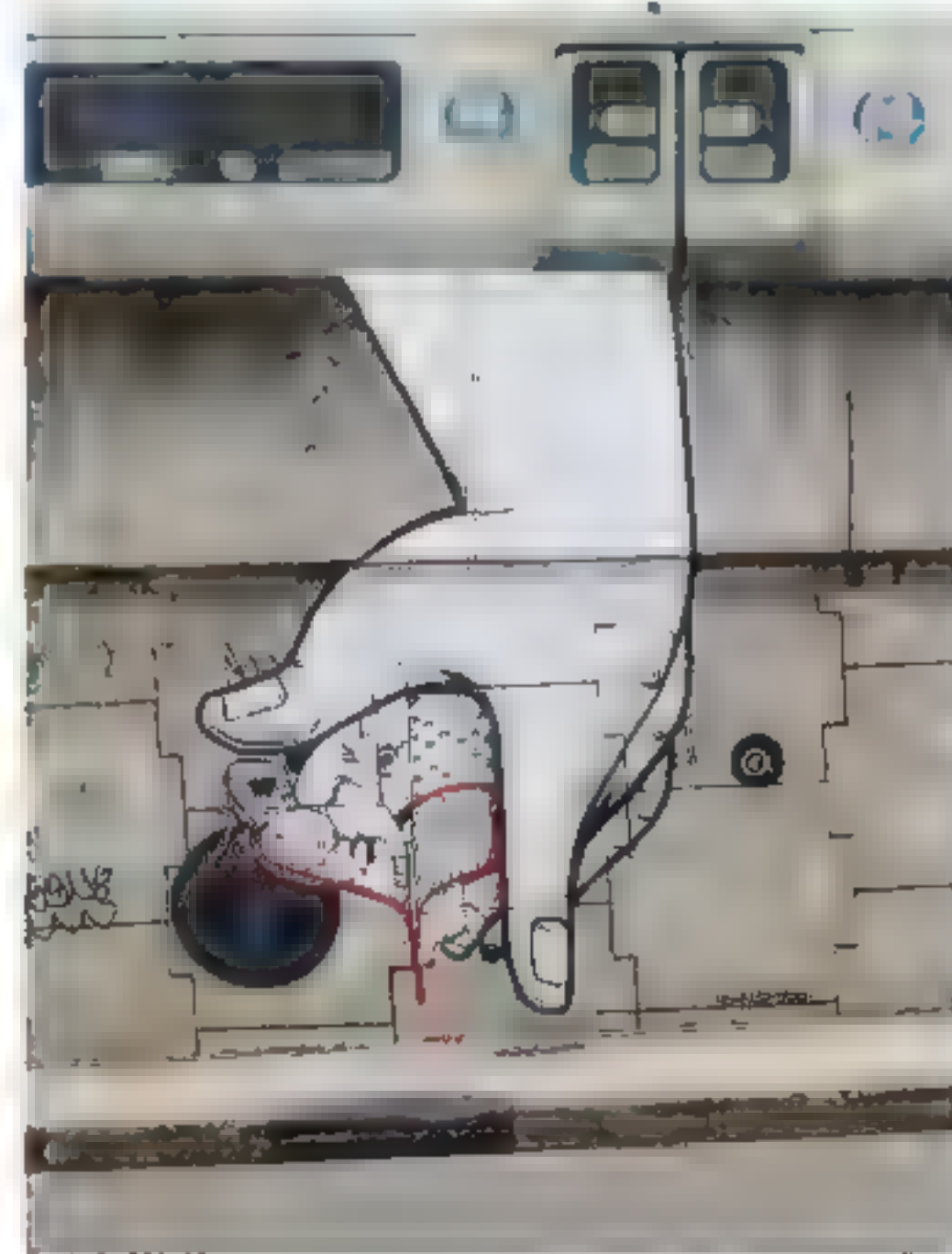
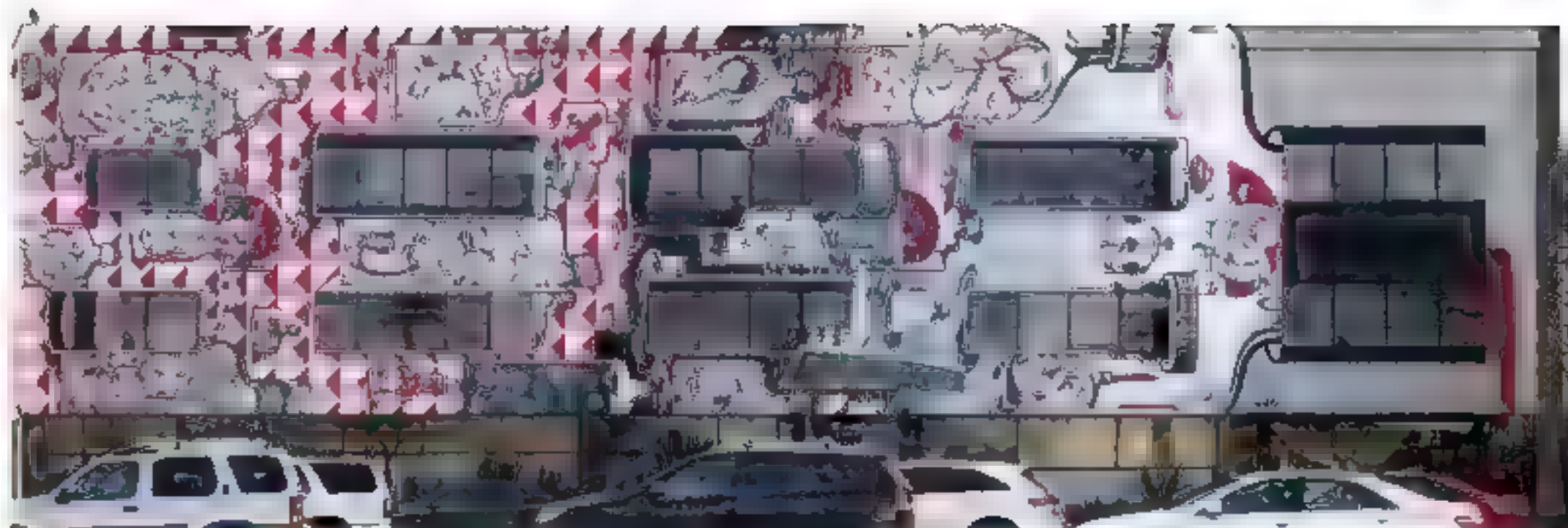
Six Feet Under tattoo artist Corey Miller designed the tattooed lion for Tuaca. Printed with thermochromic ink, the lion turns from silver to blue when the bottle is chilled enough to dispense optimally temperatured vanilla-citrus liqueur.



HENNESSY

The iconic cognac asked graffiti artist Futura 2000 to tag one on their label. Along with brightly colored patterns, the master left his mark with his calling card of helix circles that remind us of swirling a snifter.

Clockwise from top left: *Personal Melody*, Philadelphia; *Living in the Bottle*, LA Weekly building, Los Angeles; *M* mural, Rio de Janeiro; *Different Perspectives*; HOW and NOSM portrait, *Live and Tell*; *Achtung!* exhibition at Known Gallery; *Time Flies By*, Boneyard Project, Tucson, AZ, 2011.



TAG TEAM

What's black and white and red all over? A HOW and NOSM mural.

|||||

HOW and NOSM, twin brothers born in the Basque country of San Sebastian, Spain, and raised in Düsseldorf, Germany, have become two of the most acclaimed graffiti artists and professional muralists in New York City. HOW (Raoul Perré) and NOSM (Davide Perre) have shown and installed their signature red, white, and black creations all over the world, from Ecuador to South Korea to France. In the process, their art has transitioned from spray-painting on buildings and subway trains to creating refined large-scale murals and paintings on canvas.

As tweens, the brothers fled their time skateboarding with friends. Unaware of the graffiti scene that came out of the Bronx, Raoul and Davide began tagging. "We didn't quite understand what we were doing," says Raoul. "We just knew that if we wanted to be down with the skate crew, we'd have to write our name all over."

Raoul gave himself the moniker HOW and Davide, NOSM. They admit that the tags don't stand for anything specific. They were just a collection of letters that they thought looked good on the brick facade of German buildings.

When they begin a piece, the brothers approach a wall with a bucket of white paint and a roller. Next, they apply shades of red, black, and more white. "Our work has different shades of red and gray," says Raoul. "It immediately became our signature style. People knew that murals painted in those colors were our work."

The brothers, who are as inked as the train cars and brick buildings they tag, share a love for tattoo art. Davide's canvas includes traditional Japanese work, while Raoul opted for an eclectic range of pieces, including totem poles, a dragon holding a spray-paint can, and a Roman fighter. —Kara Pound



A close-up portrait of a woman with her hair styled in a large, voluminous updo. She is wearing elaborate Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) makeup, which includes white face paint, dark eye sockets, and intricate floral and geometric patterns around her eyes and mouth. A single white rose is tucked into her hair on the left side. The background is a warm, textured orange-brown.

*Black
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ART & APPAREL

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Daniel E. Sosa



|||||

EGG BEATER

Tenga partnered with the Keith Haring Foundation to create a unique line of men's sex toys, including the Egg (\$10, amazon.com), with the '80s street artist's design on the packaging and in the pleasure zones.



REBEL WITHOUT A HEAD

Dance Party Massacre severed James Dean's head and tattooed his neck with the phrase "Live As If You'll Die Today" for its Rebel With a Cause shirt (\$24, dpmassacre.bigcartel.com).



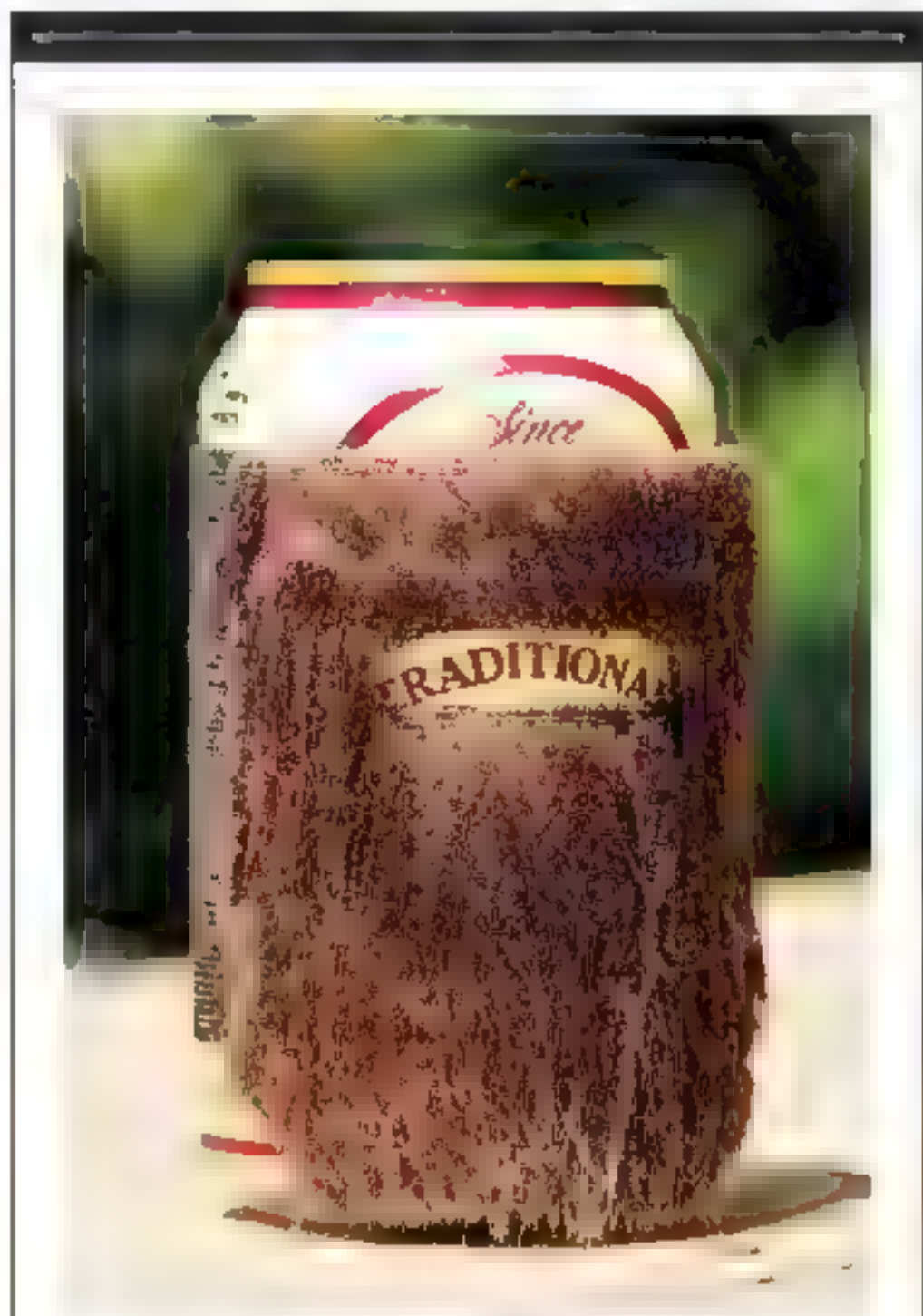
HELL ON WHEELS

We really dug this Skull Graphic board from GoldCoast (\$120, skategoldcoast.com), which has kicktails but rides like a longboard.



CAPPY

Kronk's Totem FatCap for Kidrobot (six-inch, \$75, toyartgallery.com) embodies the themes of greed (gambling dice) and lust (XXX) on a spray-paint can nozzle.



BEERD

Arms and Ink won the 2012 PBR Craft Show with these handmade beer-beard cozies (\$7, etsy.com). They'll keep your lager cool.



LALA LID

Fata. took inspiration from the suddenly hot Los Angeles Clippers for their Clipp Hat (\$27, fataclothing.com). The designer even remixed the NBA logo, swapping out the p ayer for the state of California.

|||||



RED GIANT

The Phone Fairy hid your cellular while you were sleeping so Shepard Fairey could morph his OBEY Giant artwork into your iPhone protector (\$40, goincase.com).



TOO DIMENSIONAL

That's not a drawing; that's a real-life, honest-to-goodness, functioning messenger bag called the JumpFromPaper Roamer Play Hooky (\$80, jumpfrompaper.com). The company designs its bags in vibrant colors and quirky angles that make accessories look cartoonish.

PLANKING

Vans dug back in the crates to revive their Van Doren pirate skull kicks (\$55, vans.com) Perfect for Walk Like a Pirate Day.



ZOMBIE BOY TOY

Rick Genest, a.k.a. Zombie Boy, now comes in a tattooed action figure (\$160, tonnerdoll.com)!



INK ON THE STREET

SUBJECT: Beau Brady

SPOTTED: Lower East Side, New York City

WHERE HE GETS INKED: Kings Avenue Tattoo, by Mike Rubendall and Grez. "My back piece is a giant shark pulling down a ship, with the details of waves, rope, and roses by Grez. Rubendall did the Japanese *oni* on my left forearm. Most people ask about the top of my head, which is a tiger head done by Chris O'Donnell at Saved Tattoo. My tattoos don't necessarily mean anything to me. I just like the images and the elements of each design, and I usually get stuff I personally think is cool or specific things from specific artists."

WHAT HE'S WEARING: Death Traitors T-shirt (\$26, deathtraitors.com)

BRAND BACKSTORY: Death Traitors was founded five years ago "strictly for live-ass motherfuckers." The underground clothing company based in Brooklyn specializes in elaborate graphic tees, most of which are two-tone and feature a skull or the grim reaper. While hitting a young punk audience in the sweet spot of subdued colors and eerie symbolism, they also flex their creative muscle with a 3-D design, a tie-dyed tee, and a shirt featuring Anne Frank with the message to stop snitching. You can find them most easily online and may even get lucky at the right boutique or street clothing shop.

WHAT ELSE HE'S WEARING: Levi's Jeans, Red Wing boots, Kangol hat.



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SourpussClothing.com

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THE FINE SHANE
AN ISHE W F V R
OF THE NATION A
SOURPUSSCLOTHING.COM

BOOK



RISE ABOVE THEY DID

Hitting shelves this month is *We Got Power!: Hardcore Punk Scenes From 1980s Southern California* by David Markey and Jordan Schwartz. The trip down hardcore punk memory lane includes gritty photos and dark essays by seminal punks, including Black Flag's Henry Rollins, who wrote of Hollywood: "It has, over the last 30 years, become somewhat of a home to me. It's not a place I miss. It is not a place I think about with any degree of fondness, but it is a place where I have seen and learned much." With no physical mecca for SoCal punks to revisit, the above photos and the book on a whole serve as a yearbook for SoCal dropouts who changed the world. —Rocky Rakovic

MOVIES



TAKEN 2

Taken was a surprise hit that kicked ass, so it's no wonder we're getting a sequel. This time, while vacationing with his family in Istanbul, ex-CIA operative Bryan Mills (Liam Neeson) finds himself in a familiar predicament when his wife (Famke Janssen) is taken and held hostage by the father of one of the Albanian kidnappers he killed in the first film. This pissed-off daddy, of course, wants revenge, so it's up to Mills and his daughter, Kim (Maggie Grace), to rescue Mom. This one looks intense, and it's nice to see Kim aiding Dad as a sidekick this time around. —Gil Macias



PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 4

The *Paranormal Activity* franchise is looking to dominate the Halloween season box office once again with this fourth installment of the highly popular found-footage horror series. Not much is known about the plot, but we do know that the events in the first two films sort of took place concurrently, and that the third was an '80s-era prequel, so from the looks of the spine-tingly trailer, maybe all lingering questions will be answered and we'll finally find out what happened to Katie and baby Hunter? Henry Joost and Ariel Schulman (*Paranormal Activity 3*) return to direct. —G.M.

DVDs



BOND 50

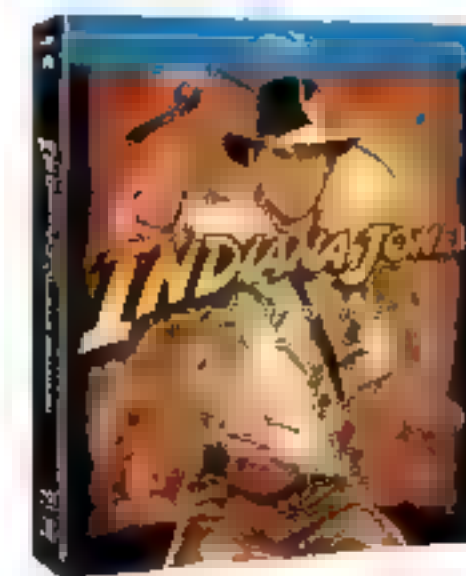
Bond fans are eagerly awaiting the highly anticipated film *Skyfall*, but in the meantime, celebrate the 50th anniversary of your favorite British spy in this sexy and sleek 22-film Blu-ray collection—that's a whole lot of Bond girls in HD! The whopping 23-disc set contains every movie from *Dr. No* to *Quantum of Solace*, and of course every Bond from Sean Connery to Daniel Craig (yes, even you, Timothy Dalton). Each disc is packed with bonus features, with disc 23 containing all new featurettes, such as *The World of Bond*, *Being Bond*, and the *Skyfall* video biogs. —G.M.

BOOK



GRAPHIC NOVEL

From the twisted mind of former L.A. of Agony bassist Alan Robert comes the comic book series *Killology*: murder and mayhem by the hands of some familiar faces. The three main characters are the fictional (we hope) dark sides of actor Frank Vincent (*Goodfellas*, *The Sopranos*), Ramones drummer Marky Ramone, and *Dexter* actress Brea Grant. We've enjoyed his first two comics, *Wire Hangers* and *Crawl to Me*, but this latest offering is fan fiction that murderizes *Fifty Shades of Grey*. —Robert McCormick



INDIANA JONES

THE COMPLETE ADVENTURES

Whether you enjoyed or hated *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, this amazing box set is a must-have for any fan. For the first time on Blu-ray, all four films are together. You get an all-new, meticulously restored version of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, and remastered versions of *The Temple of Doom*, *The Last Crusade*, and, ugh, *Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*. A lot of love was put into this set, so naturally it's loaded with making-of featurettes, interviews, trailers, and tons of behind-the-scenes footage. —G.M.

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VIDEO GAMES

**DISHONORED**

PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360, PC

After being framed for the murder of the Empress, former bodyguard Corvo Attano is rotting in prison when a mysterious supernatural visitor grants him the freedom to hunt down the people who conspired against him. Like its spiritual predecessors *Deus Ex* and *Thief*, this first-person stealth adventure game lets you choose your own path to revenge. Whether you stick to the shadows to avoid violent encounters or use the full array of magical powers at your disposal to lay waste to everyone in your way, the decisions you make affect the people you interact with and ultimately determine the plot trajectory. Whatever path you take, make sure to stop and marvel at the amazing neo-Victorian steampunk setting from time to time. This super stylish game looks unlike any other game on the market. **Play If You Like:** *Deus Ex*, *Assassin's Creed*, *V For Vendetta* —Matt Bertz

**FIFA 13**

PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360

Olympic soccer is a bore compared to the FIFA World Cup. In past FIFA games, you could only take your pro into one or the other. In FIFA 13, you can finally represent both club and country in your virtual career, making a fortune professionally and earning the adoration of your fellow countrymen in international play. Perform well enough on your club team and you'll get called up to the international squad for friendlies, qualifying matches, and tournaments. FIFA 13 also takes a few moves from the skill set of cover athlete Lionel Messi, introducing new 360-degree dribbling controls and new attacking AI that can read two plays ahead to put itself in position to make a critical run toward the net. If you're having trouble finishing, sharpen your abilities with the new skill games. **Play If You Like:** *The World Cup*, *Green Street Hooligans*, *The Damned United* —M.B.

**XCOM: ENEMY UNKNOWN**

PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360, PC

The shitty thing about an alien invasion is that you can't save everyone. As the commander of the top-secret XCOM Project, it's your job to make the tough calls: Do you preserve funding for a vital research project by helping the Chinese face a threat, or leave them exposed to investigate a UFO crash in the Nevada desert that may yield a new harvest of alien technology? These permanent choices define the gameplay experience in this reboot of the popular sci-fi series. When the aliens land, you must face the threat head-on in intense real-time strategy encounters. Succeed on the battlefield and your troops will grow with experience. Make a vital mistake and you'll lose a good man, forcing you to spend valuable resources on training new soldiers. No one said making ET phone home was going to be easy. **Play If You Like:** *The Arrival*, *X-Files*, *Civilization V* —M.B.

**THE Inked PLAYLIST**

BY JONAH BAYER

CONVERGE**"NO LIGHT ESCAPES"**

These metalcore all-stars have finally recorded this live staple, which is so heavy it'll turn your iPhone into a kettlebell.

THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM**"45"**

The Gaslight Anthem nod to their scrappy punk roots while still progressing forward on this instantly catchy rocker.

MINUS THE BEAR**"LONELY GUN"**

Minus the Bear ramp up the electronics on this club-friendly, syncopated rock track.

MURDER BY DEATH**"I CAME AROUND"**

Ever wonder what it would sound like if Johnny Cash fronted an Americana band? This track answers that question.

MONO**"DREAM ODYSSEY"**

Cinematic and epic are often used when describing Mono, but words can't do justice.

BOB MOULD**"THE DESCENT"**

Sugar may have broken up in 1995, but Mould is still making solid power-pop.

P.O.S. FEATURING JUSTIN VERNON**"WHERE WE LAND"**

Hip-hop and indie rock never sounded as good as they do on this song, which is also the antithesis of rap-rock.

PROPAGANDHI**"DUPLICATE KEYS ICARO (AN INTERIM REPORT)"**

With this progressive punk tune, Propagandhi show that every other melodic punk band should probably break up.

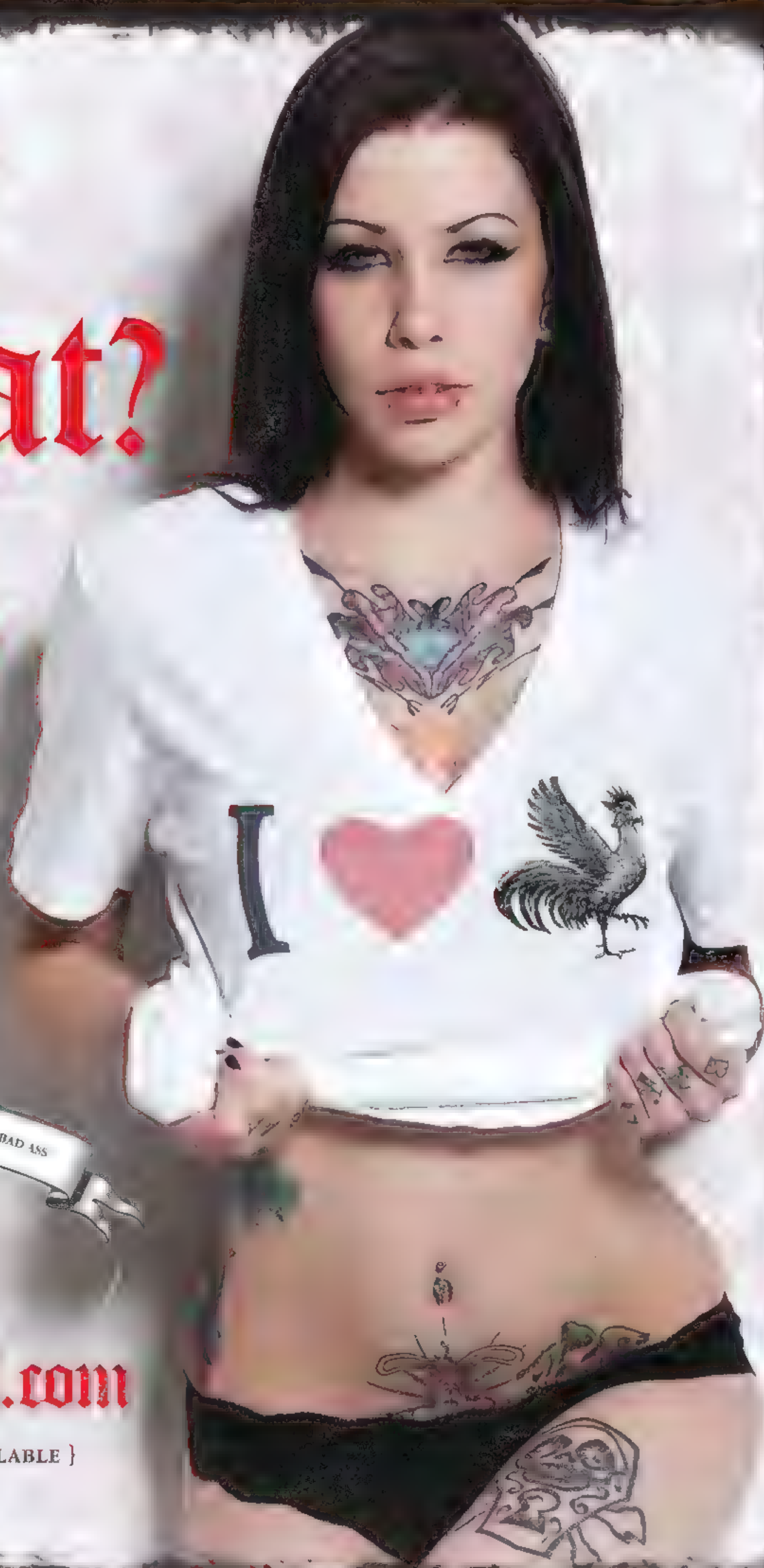
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KILLER LOOKS

Halloween is the time to try on a new face.

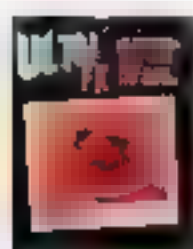


It's that time of year again, folks—where's your primal scream? October 31 and the costume parties leading up to that date provide convenient excuses to reinvent your look (and are less embarrassing than that time you unsuccessfully tried the monkey-tail beard). We're scrapping the normal grooming advice and telling you to go all out. Right now you can get away with fashion murder: black teeth, hairy warts, rotting skin, gashing wounds, sharp teeth, and long-clawed nails are in. Our seasonal expert, *Meat Me in Plainville* and *The Monster of Mad Mooney's Lake* filmmaker Greg Hanson has a good rule of thumb to make your living dead look come alive. "The goal for a makeup effect artist is to have his or her work feel real—to not be seen as a gag or as an effect," he says. "The less someone thinks of a gag as a gag, the better job the artist has done. It's always a good compliment when a friend tells you that you thoroughly grossed them out." And how does Hanson suggest you take your rented persona the extra mile? "I don't know what it is exactly, but everything seems a bit more fun when it's covered in [fake] blood," he says. "It's like the kid playing in the mud for adults. Playing in the yard is fun—but when you're wearing the yard, it's really fun!" —*Paige Etheridge*



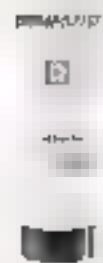
GRAFTOBIAN PRO STAGE BLOOD

Corn syrup and red food coloring should only be utilized by Paula Deen, pour on this realistic stuff (\$7 for 2 ozs., vamp-fangs.com) to freak out your friends.



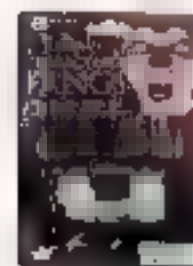
ULTRA FX TEMPORARY ZOMBIE BITE TATTOO

Slap on this tattoo (\$9, thomasfx.com) and the rest of your party will have to huddle to decide if it's a gag or if they should take a Lobotomizer to your neck.



DERMABLEND LEG AND BODY COVER SPF 15

Strong enough to wash out your tattoo (see Zombie Boy video) this cover-up (\$27, dermablend.com) can hide your art if it clashes with your costume.



RETRACTABLE FANGS


It's hard to sip punch or creep up on an unassuming neck with your fangs out. This set is activated by a tongue bar (\$14, screamsunlimited.com).



Wanna neck?
|||||||

STYLING: BETHANY WOLOSKY; MAKEUP: STEPHANIE PEREZ; MAKEUP ASSISTANT: VERONICA VELEZ; HAIR: SARA ASHANTI; HAIR ASSISTANT: ZACK ALMOG; MODEL: AMY HABEN; DRESS: NASTY GAL; RING: NOIR

MISS MAY I
THE GHOST INSIDE



DENIM

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New Haven, CT ➡ Toad's Place
New York, NY ➡ Living Plaza
Boston, MA ➡ Royale Night Club
Philadelphia, PA ➡ Theatre Of The Living Arts
Sayreville, NJ ➡ Starland Ballroom
Baltimore, MD ➡ The Recher Theatre
Norfolk, VA ➡ The Norva
Charlotte, NC ➡ Amo's Southend Music Hall
Atlanta, GA ➡ The Masquerade
St. Petersburg, FL ➡ State Theatre
Ft. Lauderdale, FL ➡ Revolution
Orlando, FL ➡ House of Blues
Houston, TX ➡ House of Blues
Dallas, TX ➡ House of Blues
San Antonio, TX ➡ Backstage Live
Mesa, AZ ➡ The Nile
San Diego, CA ➡ House of Blues
Los Angeles, CA ➡ House of Blues
Anaheim, CA ➡ House of Blues
Sacramento, CA ➡ Ace of Spades
Portland, OR ➡ Hawthorne Theater
Seattle, WA ➡ El Corazon
Salt Lake City, UT ➡ In The Venue
Denver, CO ➡ Summit Music Hall
St. Paul, MN ➡ Station 4
Saugel, IL ➡ Pops
Chicago, IL ➡ House of Blues
Grand Rapids, MI ➡ The Intersection
Pittsburgh, PA ➡ Altar Bar
Cincinnati, OH ➡ Bogart's
Detroit, MI ➡ St. Andrews Hall
Cleveland, OH ➡ House of Blues

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THU/OCT 11	Worcester, MA	Palladium	THU/OCT 25	Anaheim, CA	House of Blues
FRI/OCT 12	Philadelphia, PA	TLA	FRI/OCT 26	Los Angeles, CA	House of Blues
SAT/OCT 13	Asbury Park, NJ	Stone Pony	SAT/OCT 27	Phoenix, AZ	Nite Theatre
SUN/OCT 14	Cleveland, OH	House of Blues	SUN/OCT 28	Albuquerque, NM	Sunshine Theatre
MON/OCT 15	Detroit, MI	St. Andrew's Hall	TUE/OCT 30	San Antonio, TX	The White Rabbit
TUE/OCT 16	Cincinnati, OH	Bogart's	WED/OCT 31	Dallas, TX	House of Blues
WED/OCT 17	Chicago, IL	House of Blues	FRI/NOV 02	Houston, TX	House of Blues
FRI/OCT 19	Denver, CO	Summit	SAT/NOV 03	New Orleans, LA	House of Blues
SAT/OCT 20	Salt Lake City, UT	The Complex	MON/NOV 05	Orlando, FL	House of Blues
SUN/OCT 21	Boise, ID	Knitting Factory	TUE/NOV 06	Atlanta, GA	The Masquerade
MON/OCT 22	Seattle, WA	El Corazon	WED/NOV 07	Charlotte, NC	The Fillmore
TUE/OCT 23	Portland, OR	Naughton Theatre			



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KEY WEST

Creepy and sexy collide at the Key's Fantasy Fest.



The secret is getting out that Key West, FL, hosts one of the best Halloween festivals in the world. While the Fantasy Fest guarantees you sun, skin, and skeletons, tattooist Mike Haugh can let you know what else to check out in his town. The owner of Key West Tattoo Company, the preferred shop of tourists, locals, and service people from the nearby nava base, knows how to have a good time. Away from the shop, he likes to spearfish. "If you don't like the water, you came to the wrong place," Haugh says. —Zac Clark



LOCAL FLAVOR The Hogfish Bar and Grill (6810 Front St.) is where the resident islanders hang out. The food is great (especially the peel-and-eat Key West pink shrimp) for the price, but the real draw here is atmosphere. The joint is right on the water, and you won't see tourists unless they wander in by accident. Experience the Keys like they were before cubs became a thing, chill out, have some drinks, and grab some grub—Haugh suggests feeding your leftovers to the resident pelicans.

BEST TABLECLOTH DINING

Haugh's apprentice hasn't quit his day job as a cook at Louie's Backyard (700 Waddell Ave.). While the name sounds humble, the food is elevated—shrimp pakoras, sweetbreads, citrus-cured salmon—and the view is just as appealing. Also, you never know when the Key West Tattoo Company apprentice might be working "His name's Russ," Haugh says. "Feel free to flip him off for me if you see him."



SEE ANIMALS

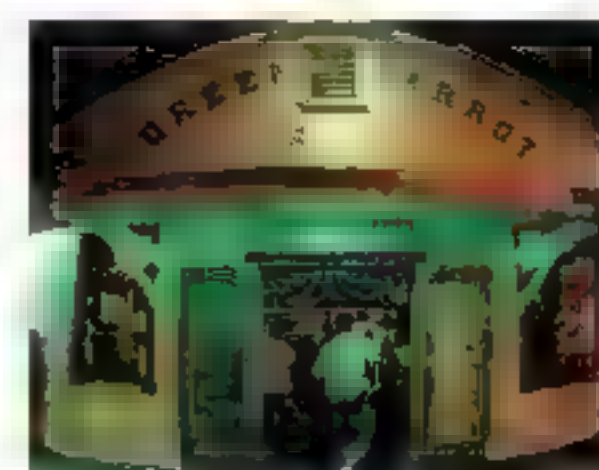
"It's a great place for any age," says 16-year tattoo veteran Haugh of the Key West Aquarium (1 Whitehead St.). Fish? Check. Turtles? Check. Huge snakes? You know it. Make sure you sign up for a guided tour to get the most out of your trip. Pro tip: Ask the staff if they'll let you feed a shark.



OFF THE HOOK

Drop the line and fish the old-fashioned way with SpearPoint Charters (5130 Rte. 1). The captain, Stephen W. Barger, is one of Haugh's good friends; they often pierce dinner together. The charters range from free diving to getting in there Hemingway-style with a spear for swordfish, mahi mahi, and all the majestic creatures in between. "You'll be hard-pressed to find anything more intense to do on a gorgeous day," Haugh says.

DIVE IN Boasting a steady music presence four to five days a week, The Green Parrot Bar (601 Whitehead St.) is not only a great spot to get tipsy but an ideal place to get down. The clientele runs from hippies to fishermen to Navy officers, making it feel a little Jimmy Buffet and a little like drinking with the crew from *Deadliest Catch* with a chance of the *Top Gun* serenade scene breaking out at any time. As the bar describes itself: It's "a sunny place for shady people."



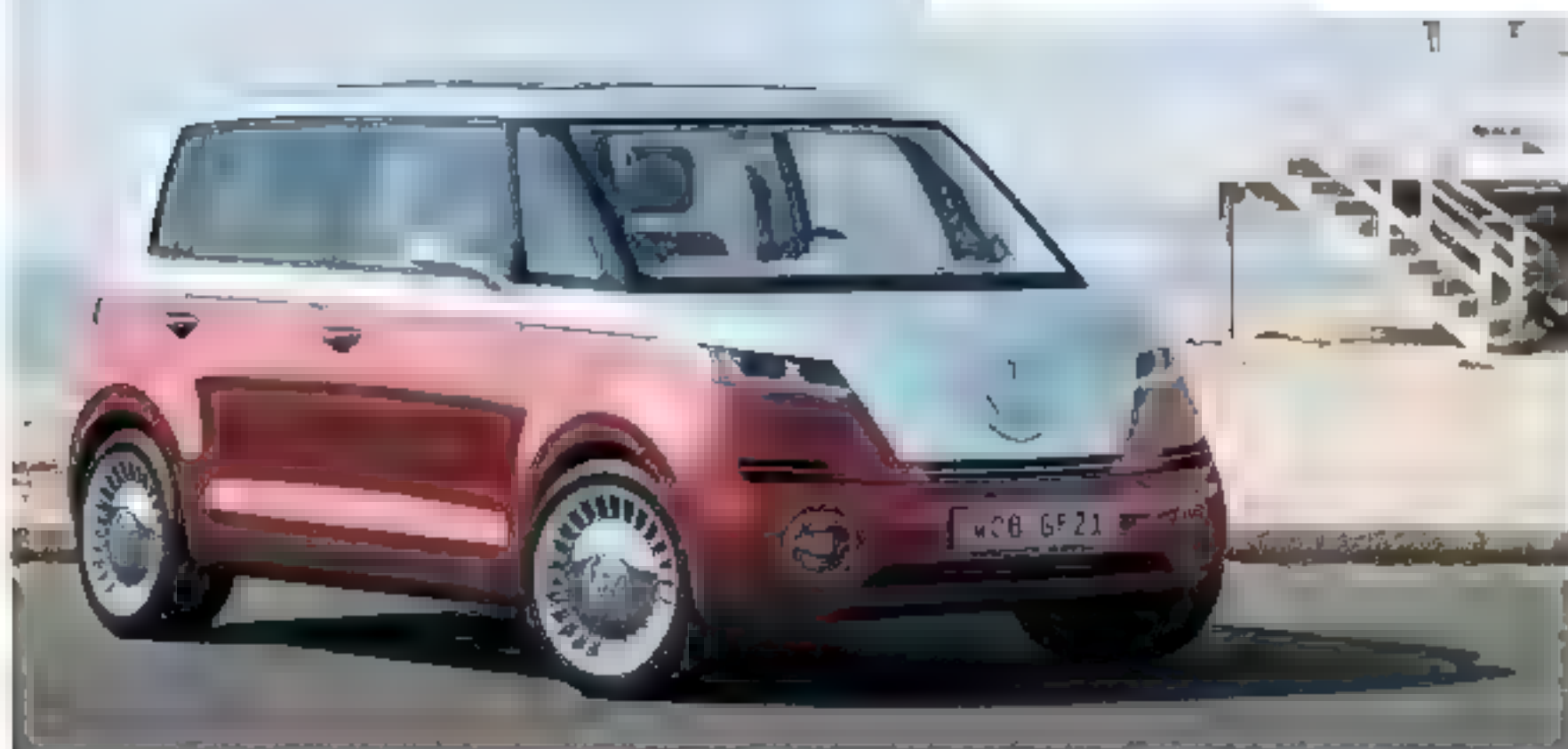


AVAILABLE
SEPTEMBER
2012

Freddy Negrete



Clockwise from top left: Bugatti 16c Galibier Concept; Hyundai Elantra Coupe Zombie Survival Machine; KTM E3W Concept; VW Bulli Concept.



DRIVING FORCE OF DESIGN

These concept cars may never come to fruition, but the hypothetical heavyweights are a gallant display of automakers' creativity that foreshadows the shape of things to come.

In order to earn money in the car business, you need to make vanilla, mainstream vehicles. (The last time one of the Big Three tried to get clever in mass production, the regrettable PT Cruiser came off the assembly line.) But car designers get to flex their creative muscles with concept cars. They

might never, ever hit the streets, but look out for some of their features at a dealership in the future.

KTM E3W CONCEPT In this corner, from the schnitzel haven of Austria, weighing in at about 1,100 pounds: The E3W Electric! This sporty three-wheeler was crafted to be as beneficial to the city driver as it is to the environment. Its extremely lightweight plastic frame means fewer charges between drives and an overall decrease in energy consumption. The Lamborghini-style doors ensure that you won't be scraping any side panels while climbing out of even the tightest parking spaces.

BUGATTI 16C GALIBIER CONCEPT Called the "most exclusive, elegant, and powerful four-door car" by its automaker, the Galibier Concept was unveiled with all the pomp and circumstance of the capture of King Kong. It features a woven carbon fiber body with polished aluminum doors and wings (the front end eschews the traditional hood concept and opts for a set of automated dual wings instead). Under the hood, there's a staggering 16-cylinder, 8-liter, two-stage engine that can run on ethanol.

On the console, Bugatti has installed a clock face designed by the Swiss company Parmigiani that can be detached and worn as a wristwatch.

VW BULLI CONCEPT Sometimes a look into the past inspires the future. The Bulli is a spacious, eco-friendly, and fun vehicle for long hauls to the campground or trips to where the local head shop used to be. In true VW fashion, the journey will undoubtedly overshadow the destination, as the interior allegedly has an iPad control center and a sound system engineered by Fender.

HYUNDAI ELANTRA COUPE ZOMBIE SURVIVAL MACHINE
Your Honda Element isn't going to do you much good during the impending zombie uprising. Hyundai's got you, though. *Walking Dead* creator Robert Kirkman teamed up with the carmaker to create the ultimate zombie survival vehicle, which was unveiled at this year's Comic-Con. Based on a 2013 Elantra, this postapocalyptic death machine features a spiked cow catcher, a net launcher, and everything else you might need to keep the undead from getting to your cortex. —Nick Fierro

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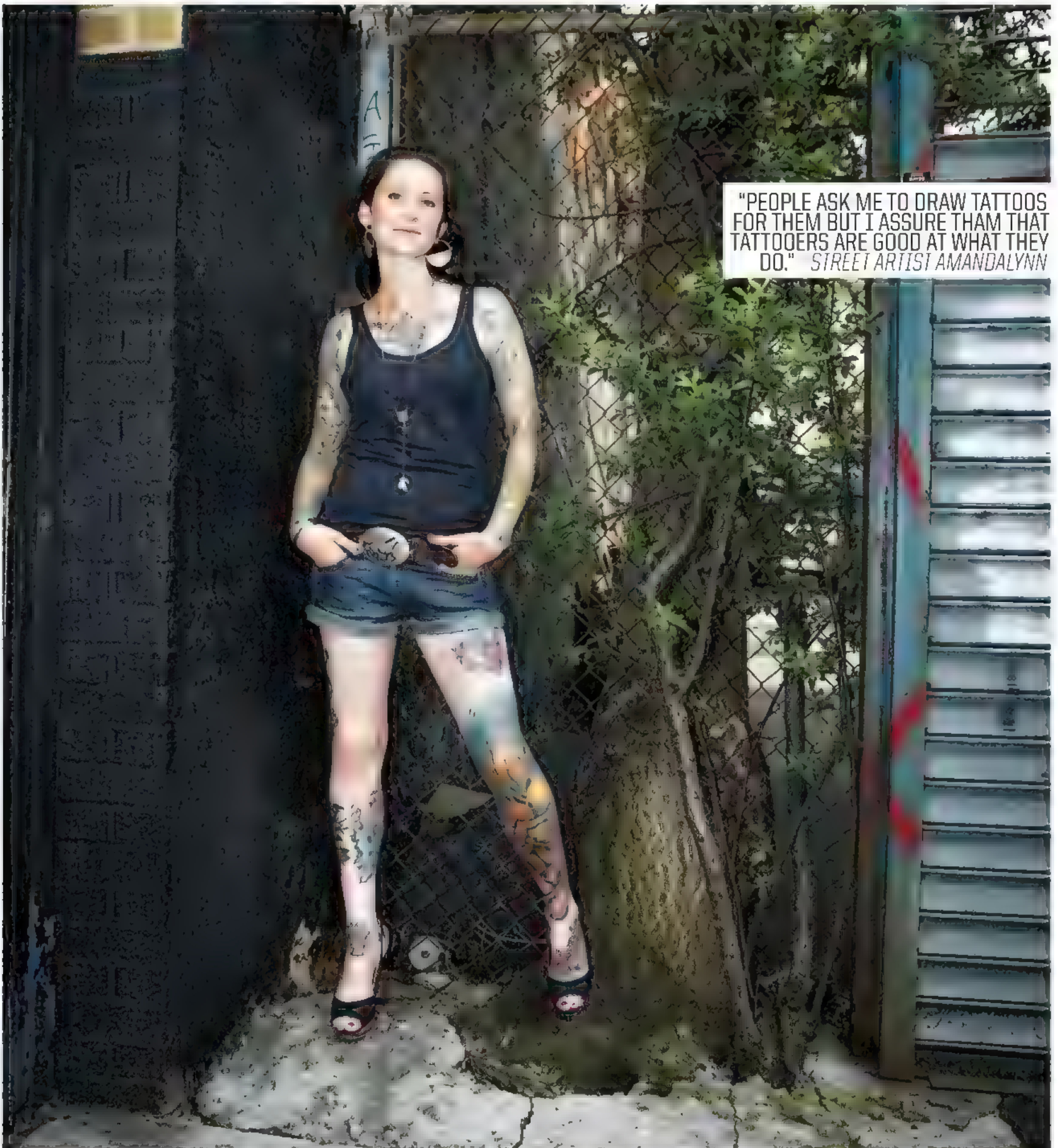
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"PEOPLE ASK ME TO DRAW TATTOOS FOR THEM BUT I ASSURE THEM THAT TATTOOERS ARE GOOD AT WHAT THEY DO." STREET ARTIST AMANDALYNN



AMANDALYNN & LADY MAGS

I'm watching paint dry—actually bake in the sun—and I haven't been this awestruck by an edifice in New York City since I first saw the American Radiator Building. A few weeks ago Amandalynn and Lady Mags promised to paint an INKED mural, but now, looking at the completed scape, I don't think the duo are street artists—they are more like street magicians.

Partners in legal graffiti, Amandalynn and Mags are two emerging talents in the street art scene. After an excursion to Los Angeles, the two met each other during a shared ride back to their respective residences in San Francisco and Oakland. "It was around Halloween last year," Amandalynn recalls. "We talked for five and a half straight hours, and Mags invited me to paint a wall with her in Oakland. From then on we have painted together almost every weekend."

On this particular Sunday, the tandem has transformed a wall behind dope Lower East Side boutique Community 54 into a kaleidoscope of colors and angles punctuated by a portrait of INKED Girl Jesse Lee Denning. "I met Jesse about six years ago, we partied, and my sister dropped a shot glass on her toe," Amandalynn says. "But she was cool about it and we've been friends ever since. This is the fifth time I've painted her." Amandalynn is even using Jesse in a clothing line she's doing for the Goorin Brothers that drops next month. Amandalynn's current muse will be on the inside of hats and ties. When picking up a brush, Amandalynn's artistic tendency is toward voluptuous women. "I like the sexy allure of girls," she says. "I like to leave a little bit of them hidden for the imagination." Along with murals and fashion, she works on motorcycle pinstriping and outdoor sculpture restoration but leaves the tattooing to the professionals. "People ask me to draw tattoos for them, but I assure them that

tattooers are good at what they do," she says. Her own personal collection of ink is impressive, with pieces by Grime, Norm, Marcus Pacheco, Luke Stewart, Bert Krak, Jason Kundell, Phil Holt, Shawn Barber, and Regino Gonzales.

Mags has less ink, but in no way are her pieces less impactful. On her arm sits a symbol incorporating the moon, sun, compass directions, yin and yang, and the Lakota turtle. "I taught on a Lakota reservation for a little while," she says. "It was awesome. We actually painted the community's athletic center in graffiti. I did the lettering but the kids filled them in. Because it wasn't illegal graffiti where you just sneak in and put something up, I didn't want to fuck their wall up." Mags grew up in New York City during the explosion of graffiti and hip-hop and was influenced by the messages she saw around her, specifically how they looked. "It is kind of nerdy but I love doing letters," she says. "I study graffiti fonts. On this wall, because of the mood and where we are in New York City, I went with bright colors because of where the wall is. And I added some arrows for style, grace, and a feeling of movement."

While the two women quickly but thoughtfully work on finishing touches, I ask them about the difference between graffiti art and tattoo art. "There are a lot of tattooists who are graffiti writers," Mags says. "Now that I think about it, it makes sense because they are [inclined] to mark territory or a space. But graffiti is totally impermanent. You put up a mural and then in days or months somebody paints over it."

Weeks later I walk by Community 54, and see a cartoonish turtle in a bowler hat where I had once marveled at the details of Jesse's tattoos. I can't wait for the next artist to come by. —Rocky Rakovic



DANNY WAY

Since its inception, skateboarding has always been the sport of choice for rebellious kids for one reason above all others: There are no rules. While sports like baseball and football have rigid structures that have barely changed over the years, skateboarding is constantly evolving into something different. The only thing that limits where skateboarding can go is the creativity of the people involved. Perhaps the most vivid imagination of all belongs to skateboarding legend Danny Way.

Since Way first became a pro at the ripe old age of 14, he's looked for ways to make tricks bigger, to go faster, and to jump higher. It is this dedication to innovation that led Way to come up with some of his craziest ideas. Possibly the craziest idea was to become the first person to jump the Great Wall of China on a skateboard, a trick that wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the Mega Ramp that Way invented. After building the enormous structure, Way felt that it needed to be showcased in a way that fully illustrated its size. "It's great that I've figured out this massive ramp, but building it out in the desert gives it no perception. Surrounded by weeds and dirt it's hard to tell how huge it is. So if I unveil it somewhere we need to do it where people think, 'Wow, that's massive,'" Way explains. "When I was in China we flew over the Great Wall of China and I thought it would be a pretty awesome thing to jump."

The jump over the Great Wall is one of many things that are covered in *Waiting for Lightning*, a documentary about Way and his journey from a troubled youth to the skateboarding legend that he is today. In order to document the new tricks that they are doing, skateboarders tend to film themselves all of the time, a practice that certainly comes in handy for making a documentary. The film was made by Jake Rosenberg, a childhood friend of Way's. As they grew

up, both were mentored by Mike Ternasky, with Rosenberg serving as videographer for Way and other skaters. "Our friend and mentor Mike Ternasky was killed in a car accident in 1995, so the film was a way to pay homage to the man who inspired us to do what we are doing today," Way notes.

After watching *Waiting for Lightning* in theaters this month, one may become tempted to try some of the sick feats Way performs in the film. One should do so with extreme caution. After 23 years of skating professionally, Way's body is not exactly in one piece. "I think that I've had 16 orthopedic surgeries. It has not been a real smooth ride for me physically," Way recalls. "I've had a lot of situations in my skateboarding and personal life where I've been really hurt, but I have been able to pick myself up and prevail."

Way pays homage to the danger of his profession in the ink that he sports. Many of his tattoos are related to Roman history and the gladiatorial games. "What we do is like modern-day gladiator shit. Now we're not looking to die at the end of the battle, but we have to look at it with the mentality that I'm ready to take whatever comes my way," he says. When it comes to getting tattoos Way trusts Art and Steve Godoy only. Way grew up skating with the two brothers and believes that they embody the close connections between the worlds of skating and tattooing.

Many people would simply toss their skateboard aside and choose a safer way to make a living after a surgery or two. Yet after 16 of them, Way still gets on the board every day trying to do things that no one has done before. "It's passion, pure passion. Doing what we do, there comes a point of reservation where you think, 'Is this worth it?'" Way says. "If you love something that much, you'll do anything to have it." —Charlie Connell

FUTURE

Future's career in hip-hop is about as long as his history with ink. While getting his feet wet in the rap game during the mid-'00s, the Atlanta native sharpened his lyrical tongue under the guidance of Dungeon Family members, including Goodie Mob's Khujo, Big Rube, and his cousin Rico Wade.

To pledge his allegiance to the team, Future (born Nayvadius Wilburn) headed to Atlanta's Little Five Points neighborhood to get the crew's name inscribed across his forearms at age 18. "It was just my crew. We had built that relationship and that was a way of showing my loyalty," explains Future, who has since added his daughter's name, a trumpet, and a pair of hands holding a rosary to his body.

His devotion to Dungeon Family paid off. Over the next few years, the rapper steadily gained his footing in the industry, releasing buzzy mix tapes like 2010's *Dirty Sprite*, last year's *Free Bricks* with Gucci Mane, and his latest street project, *Astronaut Status*. Signed to Epic Records in September of 2011, the rugged emcee scored hits, including the anthemic "Tony Montana" featuring Drake, "Magic" featuring T.I., and "Same Damn Time," he also earned brownie points as cowriter for YC's smash "Racks."

But when it came time to release his major label debut, *Pluto*, in April 2012,

Future knew that his star had potential to shine brighter. "I feel like it was one of those albums where people will catch on later, because I understand that with a name like that, it would take a while to go to space. So it takes a while for people to catch up, which is the bottom line," he says. Future had previously released three mix tape tracks as singles from the record, and only recently delivered an original a-bum cut, "Turn On the Lights." "People get a chance to look at it in a whole different light. I'm a new artist again. It's like my first run," says Future.

He isn't stopping there. This month, Future returns to his mix tape roots with the double disc *Super Future*, a prelude to his sophomore album, *Future Hendrix*, to be released in February 2013. He also plans on starring in and recording the soundtrack for the film *LBG*, which tells the story of kids who grow up together in a group home. And to commemorate his latest accomplishments, Future is eyeing real estate on his chest to tattoo his company's name, FreeBandz.

For now, it's all about taking his skills set sky-higher for upcoming projects. "I just want to show why I'm so different," he says. "Elevation is growth, so I know I'm growing over a year's time. The sound is going to be so much broader than *Pluto*. You're going to be able to tell the first time you turn it on. You'll hear the difference." —Steven J. Horowitz









Previous page:
Cosabella black bra;
Bliss Lau silver ring
and silver and black
necklace. Deborah
Marquit black bra and
black thong; Bliss Lau
leather and silver body
chain and silver ring.



Cosabella black bra; Maison
Martin Margiela black chain thong
and black chain garter belt;
Bliss Lau silver ring and
silver and black necklace.



WE'VE NEVER MADE SOMEONE AN INKED GIRL TWICE

And we wouldn't have if there weren't something about Ira Chernova. When we first shot the minx from Moscow in 2010, she was in a transitional phase. She planned to move from Russia to Amsterdam, all the while shooting photos with intriguing narratives. Feeling foreign on the opposite end of the camera, she was coy and quiet but had a stare that spoke volumes. Since that first shoot, she's lived in Amsterdam, relocated to Brooklyn, and established herself as an exceptional photographer (Elijah Wood has even graced her lens). That's what makes this Inked Girl so special—she captures a perfect moment that without her camera would otherwise be lost.

"I like living in the present, not thinking about past or future," she says. So she immortalizes an emotion in a minute, and for that instant there is nothing else but her subject and the shutter. The

result is an emotionally charged photograph with a gaze that mirrors her own when she models. To say that Ira should be taken at face value seems unfair, though—and it would be, if the Russian-born photographer weren't such a realist.

"Everybody sees what they want to see," she explains, which is why she has taken a liking to film photography, specifically portraiture. She's drawn to capturing people because "they move, they are all different and have some story behind them," she says. Perhaps Ira's need to reveal the raw reality of her subject stems from growing up in a society of facades she never felt a part of: "I knew I didn't belong, so I just kept trying to get out of there," she says.

And like her desire to freeze time before the camera, each of her tattoos is a tangible ode to a moment. "Many of them were collected when I was on the road; sleepless nights and awesome mem-


ories of travels," she recounts. "The most recent one is from a Friday the 13th deal. It was funny—I was flying back to NYC that same day, totally lost in space, and by the time I made it to Brooklyn, my friend had texted me saying, 'I'm working at Daredevil today, get over here to get your Friday the 13th ink.' I figured, okay, nice deal."

But as the blank space on her skin slowly dwindles, she's noticed a change in her attitude toward future ink. "The less free skin I have left, the more analytical I'm getting about tattoos," she admits. And that's a fine way to see it, especially since the hellcat plans to exist forever in her 20s—because she enjoys living in the now. The keen photographer may find herself in perpetual transition—but that's okay. Because for Ira Chernova, "[There's] only one life, so better live it like you want to. It's full speed or nothing." Here's her present captured now. —Mariel Zayas-Bazan

"The less free skin I have left, the more analytical I'm getting about tattoos."

(Maison Martin Margiela black studded bra and black studded briefs; Sigerson Morrison black and gold pumps)





Maison Close black lace bra; Deborah Marquit black thong and body chain; Ivanka Trump black glitter pumps.

Model: Ira Chernova at Request Models

Stylist: Stephanie Tricola

Stylist assistants: Courtney Button and Mara Sloan

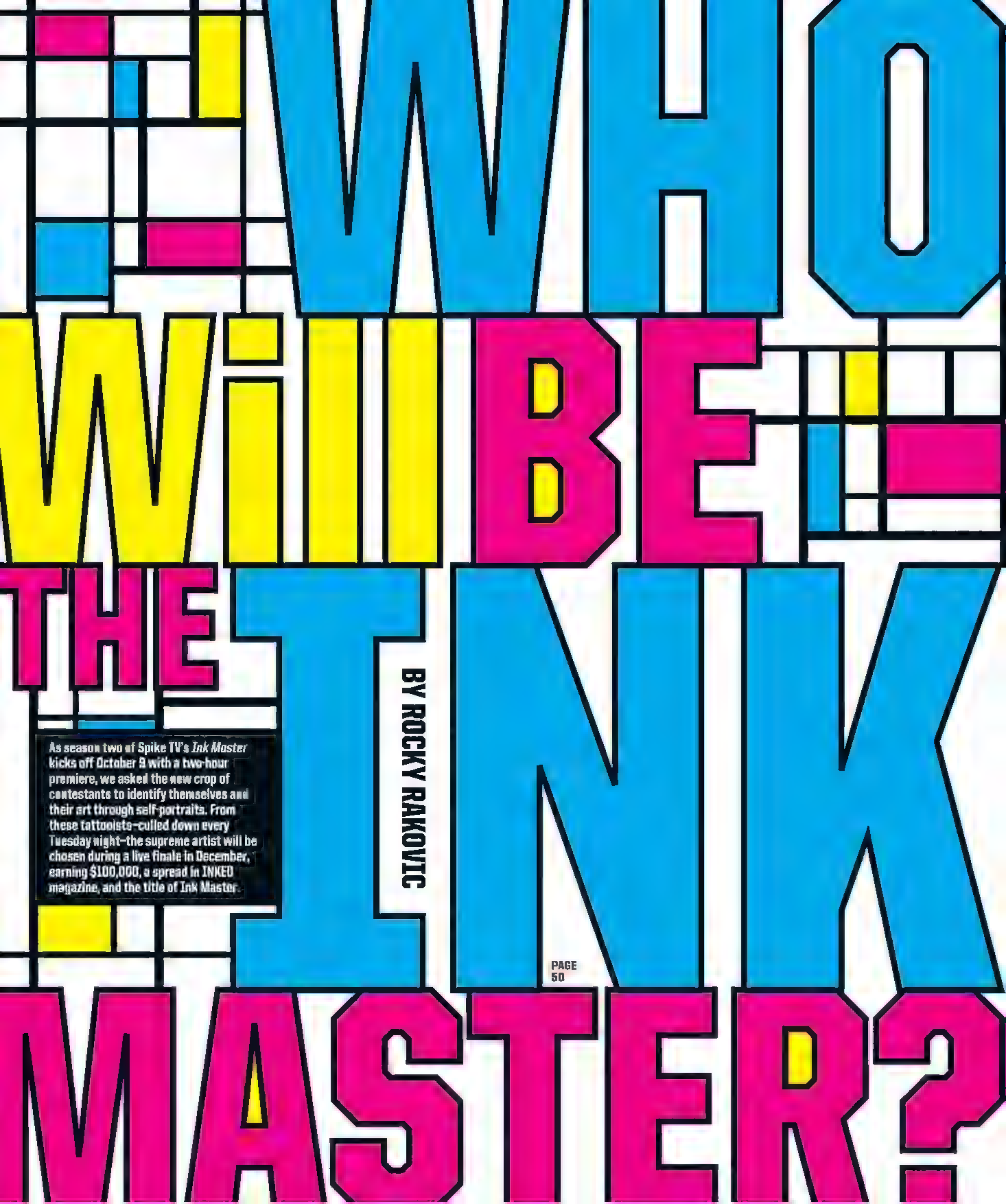
Hair: Bradley Irion using Oribe at Artists by Timothy Priano

Makeup: Emily Kate Warren, emilykatewarren.com

Makeup assistant: Elizabeth Havilla

Location: Fast Ashleys





As season two of Spike TV's *Ink Master* kicks off October 9 with a two-hour premiere, we asked the new crop of contestants to identify themselves and their art through self-portraits. From these tattooists—culled down every Tuesday night—the supreme artist will be chosen during a live finale in December, earning \$100,000, a spread in *INKED* magazine, and the title of Ink Master.

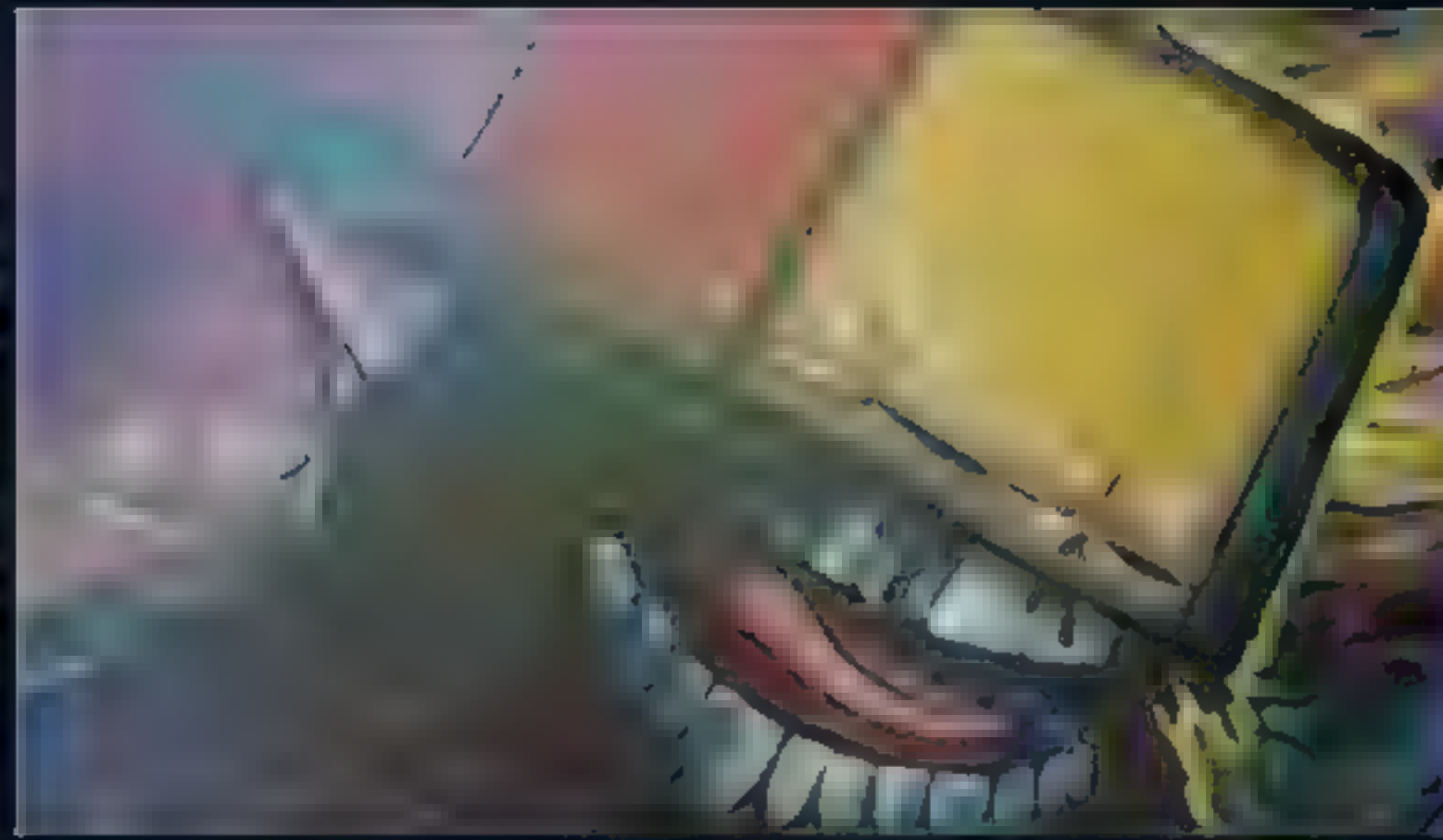
BY ROCKY RAKOVIC

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50

LA RON "RON" GIVENS

Dallas, Cat Tattoo
7 years experience

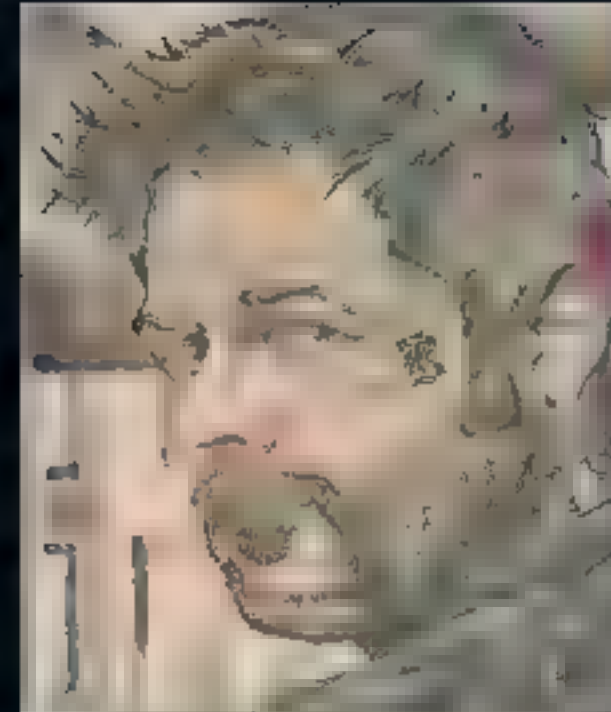
After getting a really bad tattoo, Givens decided to give tattooing a try. He turned a negative into a positive and created a new life's work. He is always grinning, considers himself an "eternal optimist," and hopes that his new-school Japanese tattoos and winning smile will take him to the top.



"BIG DADDY" TRAY BENHAM

Brandenburg, KY, Big Daddy's Tattoo
20 years experience

Some tattoo artists let their work do the talking—and while Benham's pieces speak for themselves, his silver southern tongue also interjects. Using super clean lines, smooth shading, and the full color palette, Benham is one of the best artists and characters this season.



JESSE SMITH

Richmond, VA, Loose Screw Tattoo
15 years experience

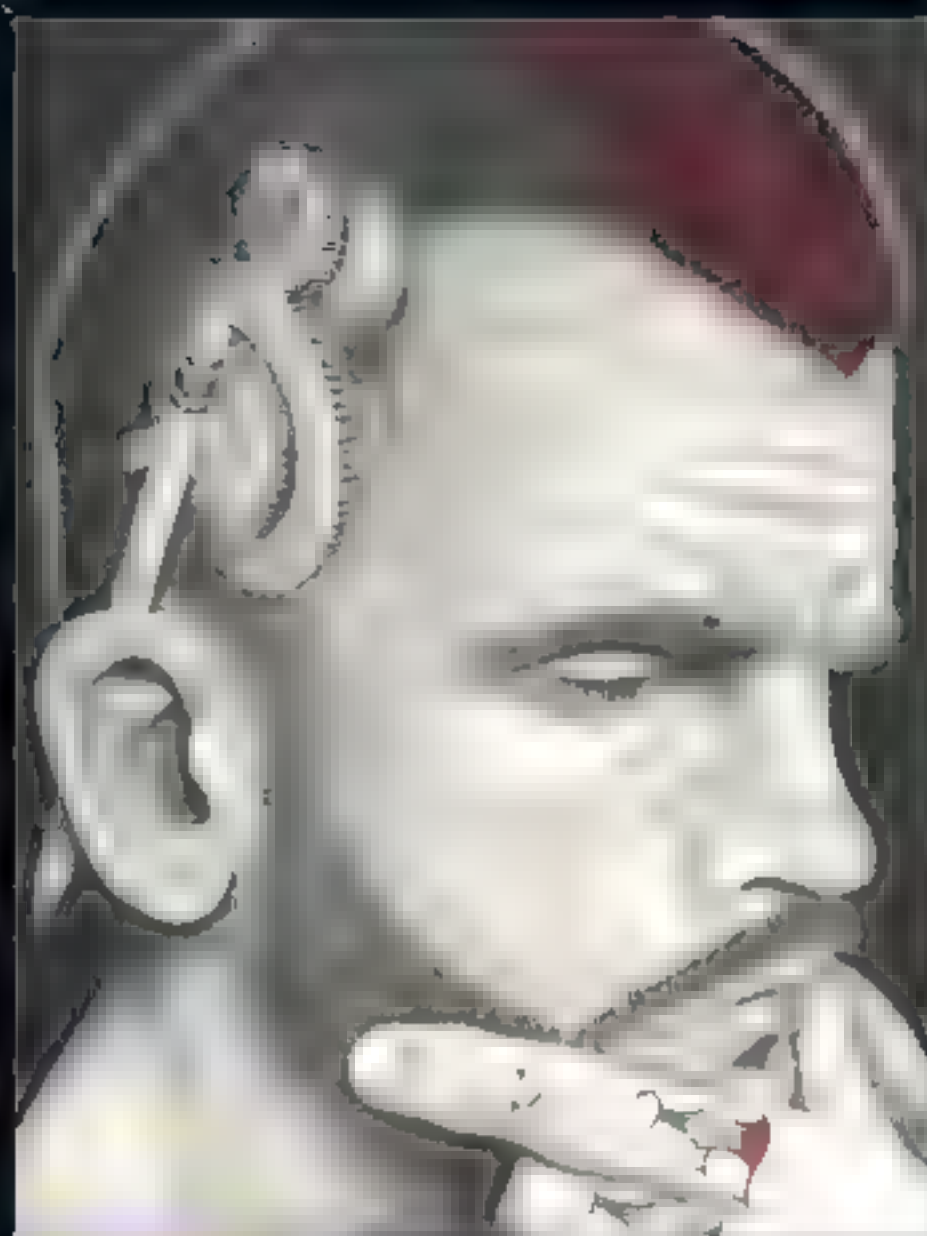
Since Smith's résumé boasts a job of drawing caricatures at Busch Gardens, there's no doubt that if a quirky, cartoonish tattoo goes in front of the judges, it came from his hand. Not just an illustrator, Smith prides himself on being able to construct his own homemade tattoo machines.



SARAH MILLER

Pittsburgh, Wyld Chyld Tattoo Pittsburgh
6 years experience

Miller comes with a different outlook on tattooing. After having worked with numerous design firms on branding campaigns, she quit her thriving graphic design and illustration career in order to ink. She aims to expand the medium and push the boundaries of what is considered tattoo art with her illustrative work.



MARK MATTHEWS

San Francisco, Coastal Tattoo Company
14 years experience

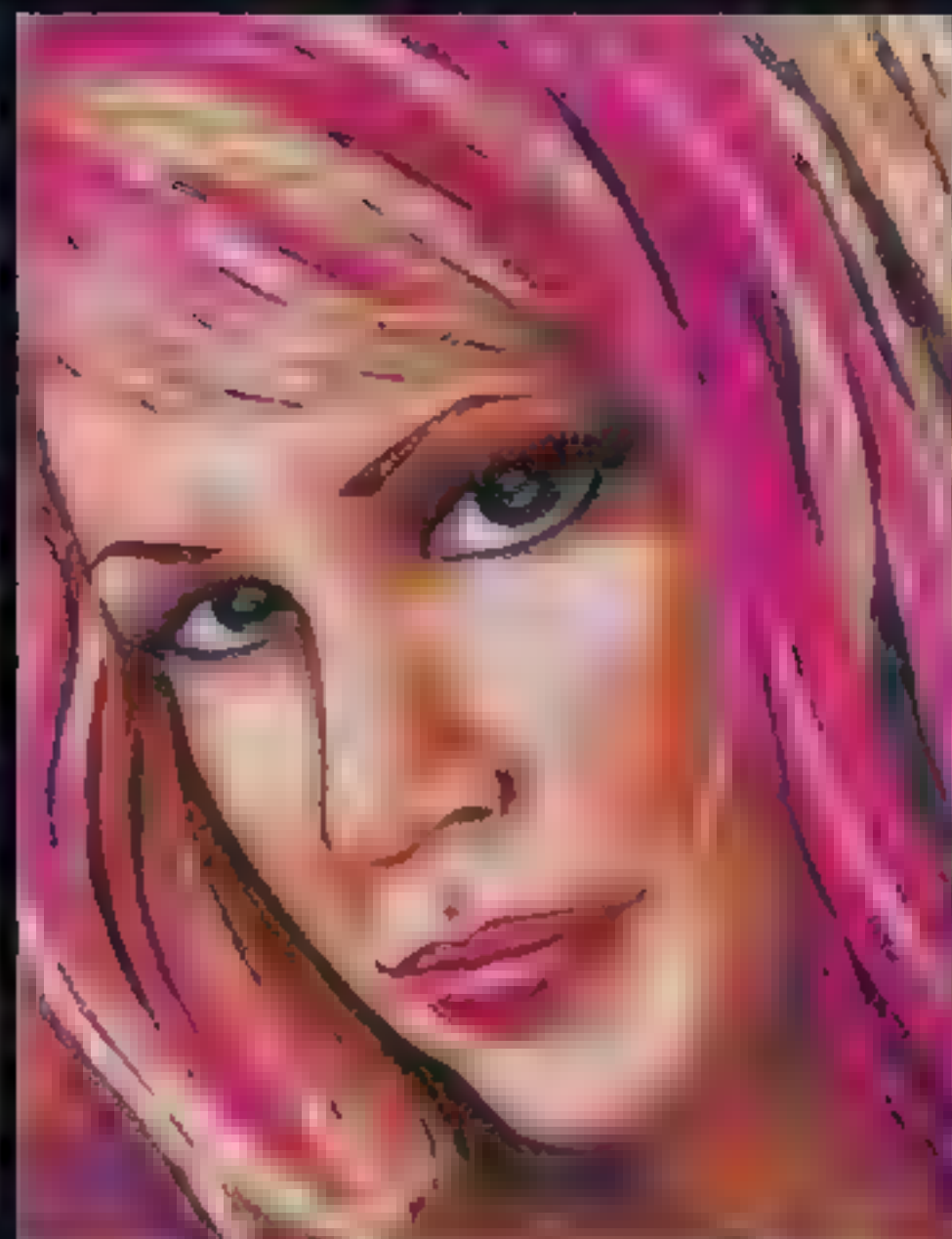
Matthews is a self-taught artist who respects the styles of traditional Japanese and American ink. Don't expect him to back down from competition: He's also a professional mixed martial arts fighter who will go toe-to-toe with anyone trying to take the title he thinks he should rightfully own.

Murphy came to tattooing through his work as an airbrush artist when he was a teenager. While glimpses of his past can be seen in his tattoos, he mainly works in black-and-gray and photorealism—of the latter he describes himself as a “ninja duplicator.”



SEBASTIAN MURPHY

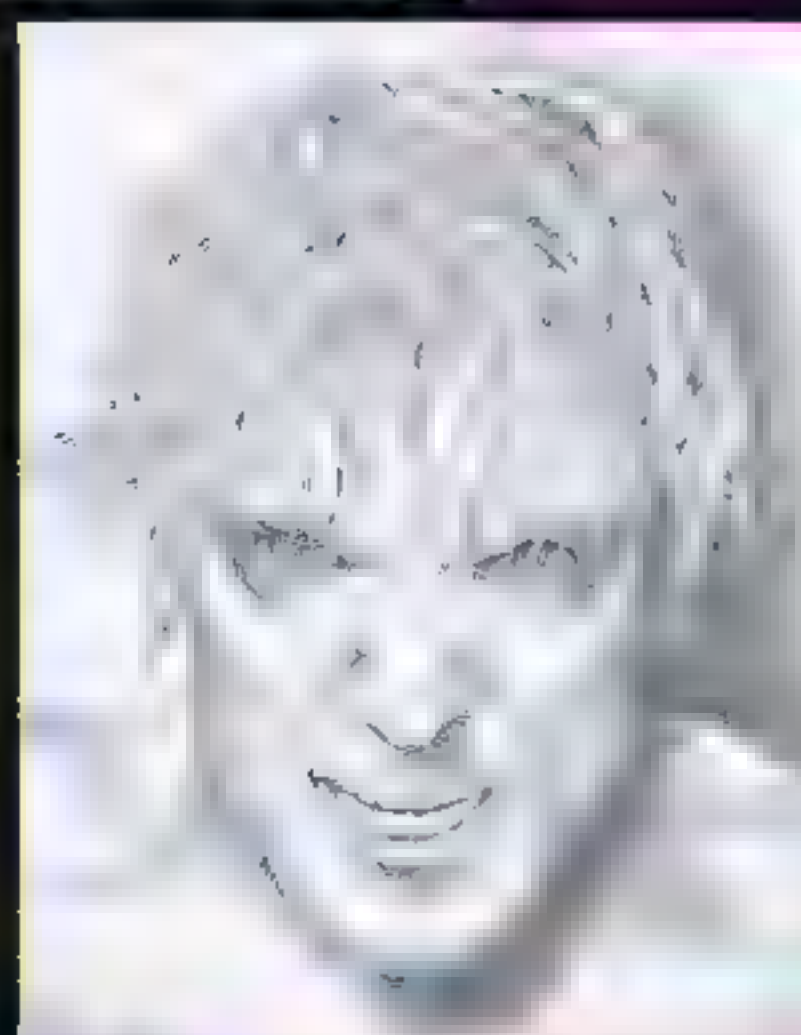
Berkley, MI Wholeshot Tattoo
15 years experience



CEE JAY "INKY" JONES

Detroit, Krave
15 years experience

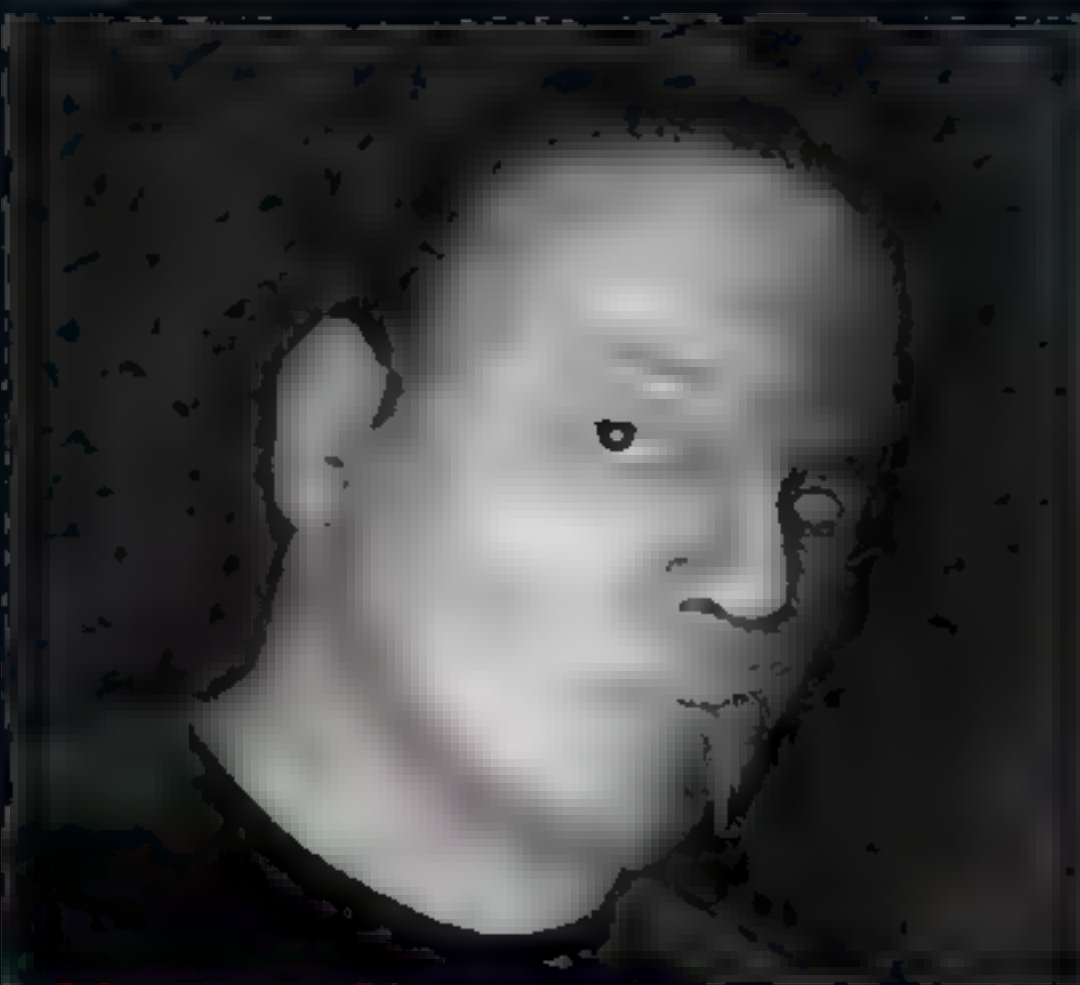
The dreaded cover-up tattoo doesn't make Jones nervous; rather, she shines in correcting scratchers' mistakes. Her tattoos are often bright, colorful, and pinuppy. The badass mom has a big cheering section outside tattooing, made up of her seven kids and her roller derby team.



JAMIE DAVIES

Redding, CA, Tattooz Ink
17 years experience

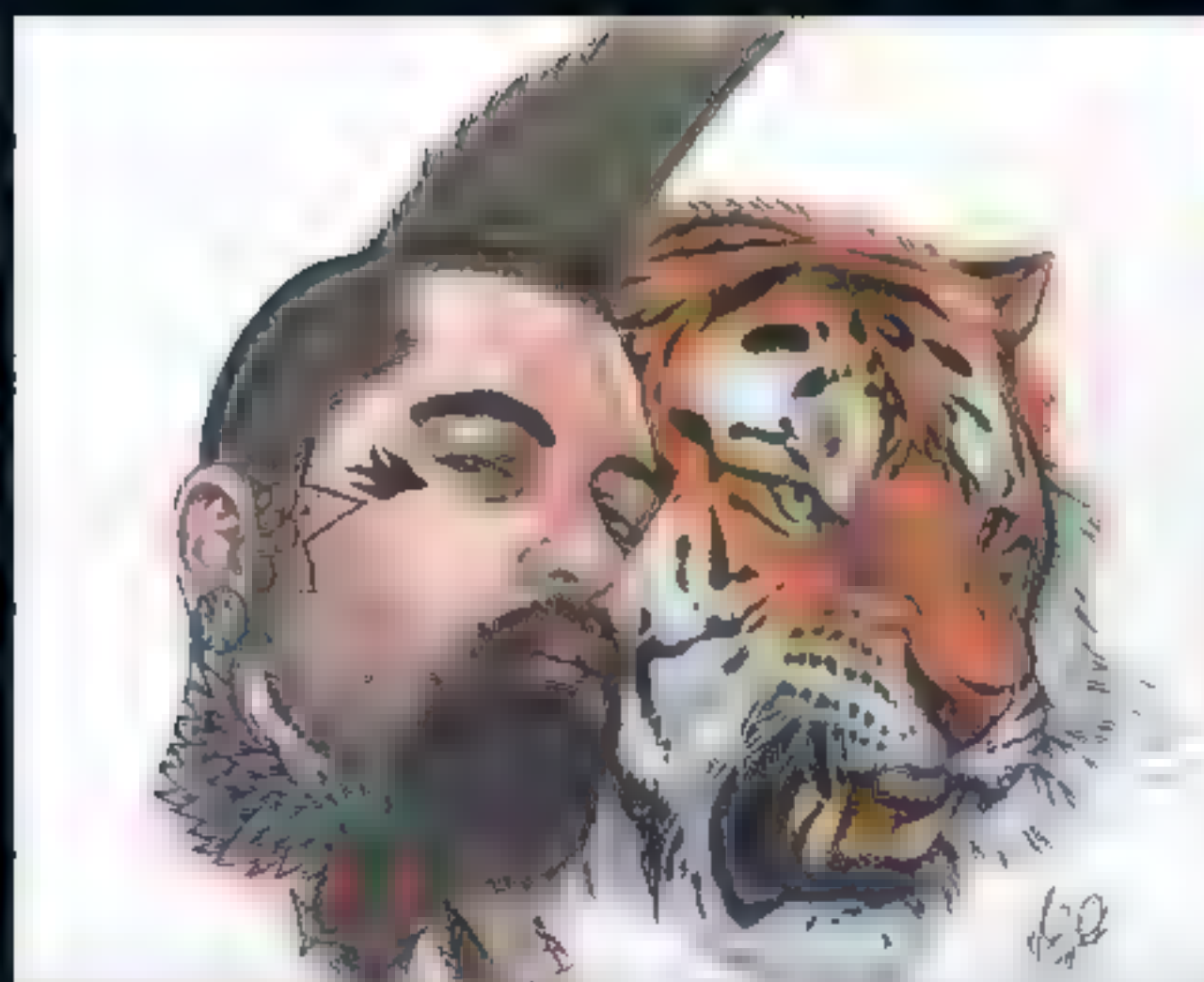
Davies is an oddity in that he's a veteran tattooer with only one piece of ink on his skin. As a self-described obsessive-compulsive workaholic, he says that he's too busy focusing on his clients' tattoos to design and get another one himself. He started out as a comic book artist but grew bored with its repetitiveness and transitioned into the world of tattooing, where his bold designs could come alive.



LITTLE MIKE

White Plains, NY, Addicted to Ink
14 years experience

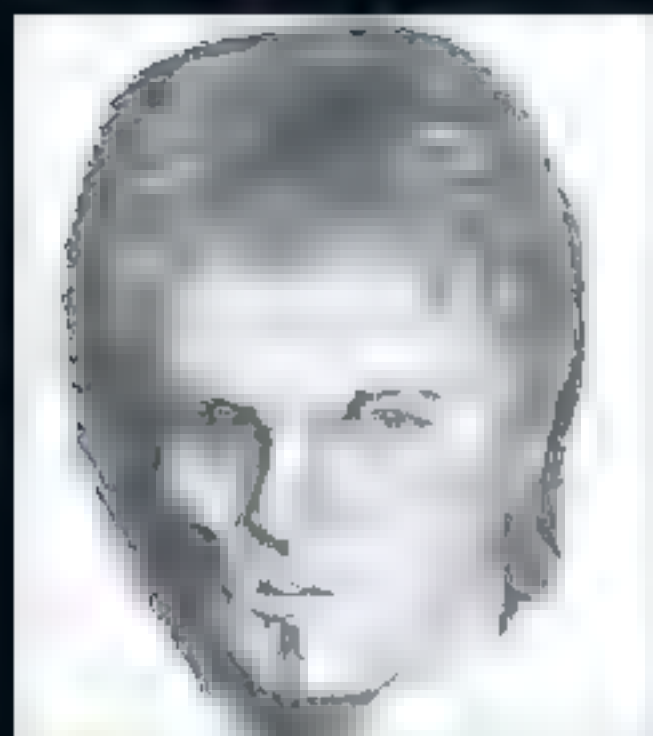
Little Mike makes up for his diminutive status with a large, funny, and sarcastic character (his friends affectionately refer to him as BLB: Belligerent Little Bastard). Similarly, his designs are big and bold with thick, sculpted lines and exaggerated highlights that make his tattoos pop.



CLINT CUMMINGS

Dallas, Sparrows Tattoo Company
16 years experience

When Cummings was 15, he was getting himself into trouble—so his dad bought him a tattoo machine, thinking it would give him an outlet for his restlessness. It did. He's not in this competition to make friends; he is focusing on his art and is in it to win it.



STEVEN TEFFT

Groton, CT, 12 Tattoos
17 years experience

Tefft has a shot at the finals if he doesn't get out of hand between tattoos. The "party boy" in designer shirts will have to get used to the grind of competition as he bangs out black and gray portraits and horror imagery in record time.



LALO YUNDA

Brooklyn, Sacred Tattoo
20 years experience

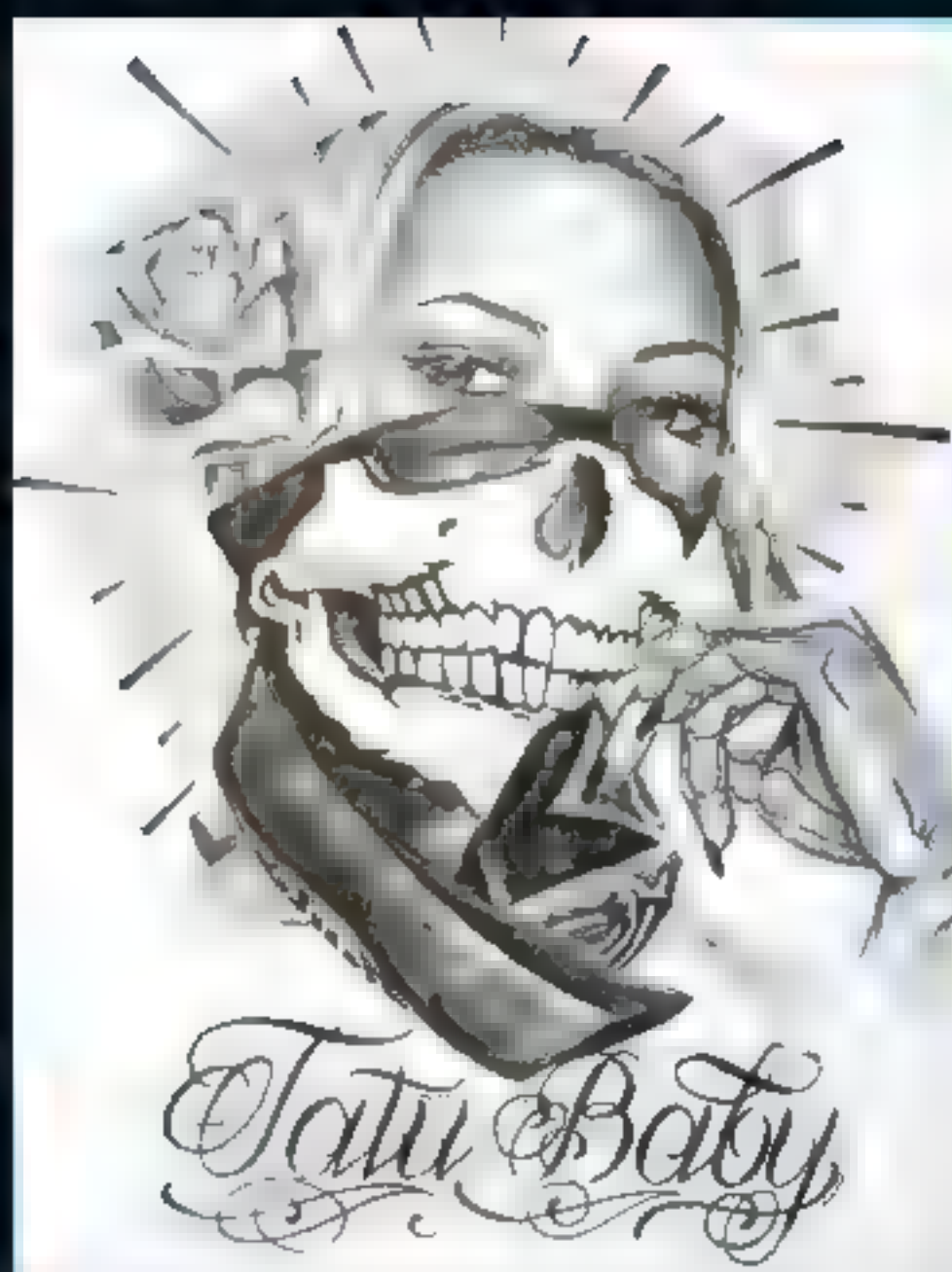
Yunda is one of the first generation of tattoo artists in his native country of Colombia and believes that communication is what makes a good tattoo artist a great tattoo artist. He collaborates closely with his clients in creating his designs and specializes in what he calls "magical realism," a specific style of tattooing that blends magical elements with the real world.



STEVEN "KAY KUTTA" GIVENS

Fayetteville, NC, Kutthouse Tattoos
8 years experience

With inda ink and a sewing needle wrapped in thread, a 12-year-old Givens gave himself his first tattoo. To say that he's come a long way is an understatement. After an eight-year stint in prison, he chose not to return to a life of crime—and he credits tattooing, specifically photorealism, with keeping him on the positive side of society.



KATHERINE "TATU BABY" FLORES

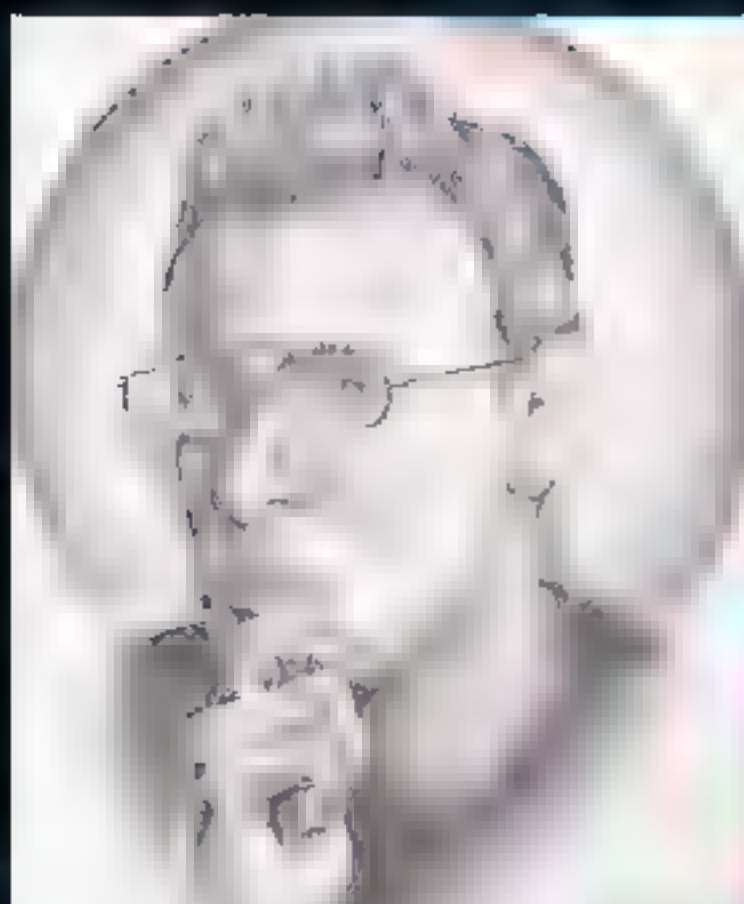
Miami, self-employed tattoo artist
6 years experience

Skin and eye candy is what *Ink Master* is all about, and Flores's looks certainly complement her work. She admits she'll attempt to use her sex appeal to her advantage, but don't judge this contestant strictly by her appearance alone: She's got talent and a portfolio of well-crafted black-and-gray tattoos to back up her swagger.

THOMAS "TJ HAL" HALVORSEN

St. Petersburg, FL, Foolish Pride Tattoo Co.
7 years experience

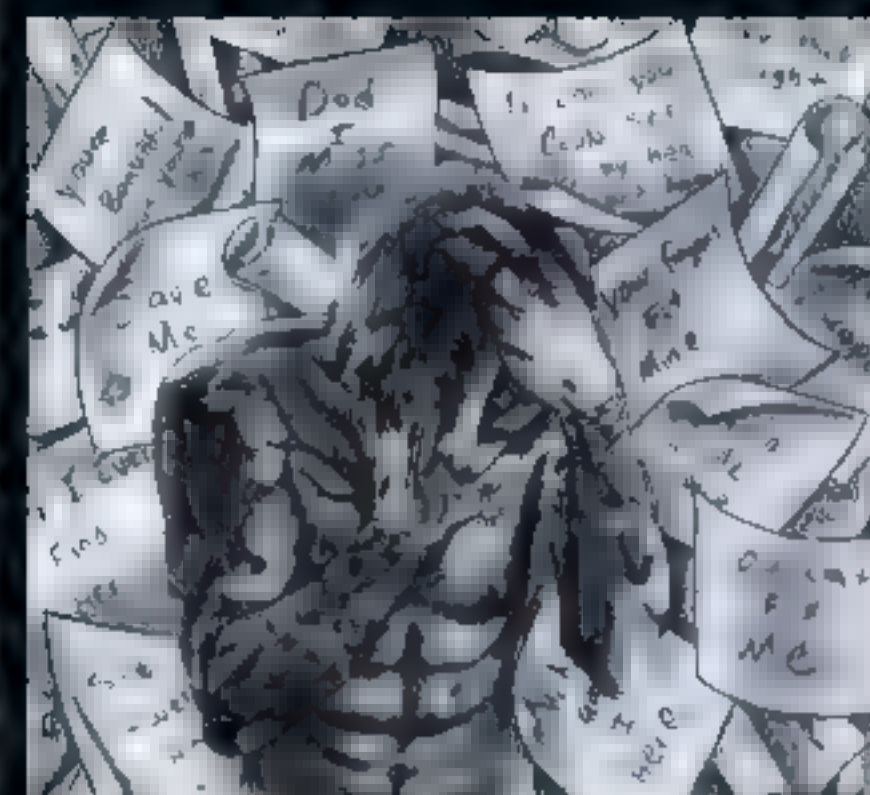
Halvorsen is an alpha male of the group. He's got a colorful past of serving as a sniper for five years in the U.S. Army and being professional comic book artist for both Marvel and DC Comics before dipping into tattoo art. He says that tattooing is the hardest of all art forms since the canvas moves, screams, bleeds, and sometimes even cries.



In high school, D'Angelo worked in a sign shop that made New Orleans replica street signs, and he fell in love with both the Crescent City and its pirate lore. Once out of high school, he decided to forgo art school for a tattoo apprenticeship and now has a pirate-themed tattoo shop. He's the young gun in the competition, with a specialization in realism and paaaaarrrrrraits.

NICK D'ANGELO

Buffalo, NY, The Black Pearl
4 years experience




GO NATIVE

ATTN YOUR SIGHTS ON SOME SILVER BY JEWELRY AND NAVAJO PRINTS

PHOTOS BY GORMAN STUDIO

SILVER WEAR Clockwise from top left: Spragwerks silver chains, spragwerks.com; Free Birds pendants, scosha.com; Giles and Brother sterling silver and brass, gilesandbrother.com; Bing Bang signet ring, bingbangnyc.com; Metta Metal mettametalworks.com; Made Her Think Heritage signet ring, madeherthink.com; Talon pendant and Zorak key chain, spragwerks.com; Miansai arrowhead, miansai.com; Pennyroyal Studio bronze and silver anchor cuffs, pennyroyalstudio.com; studded leather cuff, diesel.com; Tateossian silver bear cuff links, bloomingdale.com



CROSSING PATTERNS Clockwise from top left: Hawke & Dunmar Co. skull hat, hawkeanddumar.com; Shades of Grey by Micah Cohen 2 pocket overshirt, shadesofgreyclothing.com; Pendleton messenger bag, pendleton-usa.com; Obey Aztec glove, obeyclothing.com; Mossimo Supply Co. trapper hat, target.com; Dumar Native Stripes pants, hawkeanddumar.com; Stance Tacoma sock, stance.com; Vans Aztec belt, vans.com.



KURT SUTTER

The bad boy of Hollywood—whose credits include *Sons of Anarchy* and *Outlaw Empires*—opens up about ink, the *SOA* gang, and being married to Peggy Bundy.

BY KARA POUND PHOTOS BY LEANN MUELLER

Producer, writer, director, and actor Kurt Sutter is the creator of FX's *Sons of Anarchy*, a series about the lives of a close-knit outlaw motorcycle club operating in Charming, a fictional town in northern California. Sutter also produced *The Shield*, an Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning series that ran for seven seasons. More recently, he's ventured into reality programming with a new documentary series on the Discovery Channel called *Kurt Sutter's Outlaw Empires*. Sutter has three kids with his wife and *SOA* costar Katey Sagal, who's best known for her portrayal of Peggy Bundy on *Married ... With Children*. As he geared up for season five of *Sons of Anarchy*, which airs this fall, Sutter sat down to talk television drama and tribal ink.

INKED: Let's start by talking about your ink. Tell us about your first tattoo.

KURT SUTTER: My first tattoo I got was in my 20s, so it was 20, 25 years ago. And it just was a small tattoo, sort of a yin-yang, black-white thing on my shoulder. Then I went a long time without getting another piece.

What changed? I guess about 10 or 11 years ago I was sort of intrigued by some of the tribal work that was being done. I started researching and met with Khari Zulu here in Los Angeles, who's a tribal guy. We started discussing different ideas and different patterns. We were talking about what I wanted to get and what I wanted it to represent, and he created this very

cool scorpion sort of warrior tattoo that we did on my right forearm. That pretty much covered the entire forearm area, and he really did an awesome job. And that was the lower half of my right arm.

And you kept going. About three years after that I liked the idea of exploring different tribes and different tribal approaches, and started doing research on some of the Maori work. Actually, through Zulu I met a guy called King Afa ... who grew up in Tonga. He designed this whole patch—this whole upper sleeve on my right side—that actually incorporated the very first tattoo that I ever got. So without inking over it, but basically incorporating it into the piece, he tied all the Maori stuff from my upper right

arm. It really flowed then into the tribal piece that Zulu did on my lower right arm. So it's this really cool blend of Maori and African tribal stuff that really just feels very simpatico, and it kind of flows into one big piece. It's just incredibly, incredibly detailed. And the idea of shading that he does with the right sketch and creating depth and shadows, it's all symbols and glyphs. At one point, I knew what everything meant, but now it's all a big blur. [Laughs.] There are so many symbols.

What's your philosophy on tattoos: aesthetics or personal art?

I just love tattoos because, to me, they are truly pieces of personal art. I'm not a guy who will suddenly just get a name or something just tattooed arbitrarily on his body. To me—and this is just my opinion—but to me it just feels like graffiti, if you know what I mean. I like art, tattoos that actually are works of art and that have some sort of emotional or personal or spiritual connection to the person that it's on. And that was definitely my experience.

You also have Scandinavian tribal work, right? Yeah. I started exploring my own tribal roots, which are Scandinavian. I'm Norwegian, but I'm going back to the Scythians. ... I think this is true—I don't think I'm making this up—

but I think some of the earliest mummies ever found [were] covered head-to-toe in these Scythian tribal tattoos. [The tattoos] are all these really sort of crazy, mythical-looking creatures, like half-ram, half-lion. They have a lot of ancient roots and they tie into a runic alphabet and all that stuff. So I went back to Zulu and we started bouncing around ideas to incorporate the symbols, and spent about six months kicking around ideas back and forth. And then he took these Scythian symbols that were on this mummy and incorporated them into a pattern with the tribal stuff that he does so that there's sort of a connected flow from one arm to the other arm, because some of the symbols are similar. Between all of his African tribal stuff are these really crazy Scythian symbols and animals. And then we did a giant Helm of Awe on my elbow just to tie in the Nordic end of it. Then I have these runic letters on my fist that represent my wife and my three children, that are right below the knuckles of my left hand. So I actually took the ink down onto my fingers in his work, and I did an entire sleeve on the left hand side.

Do you remember what the catalyst was for your interest in tribal work? I think some of it was creative y what was going on at the time. I'm a





writer, so I was working on *The Shield* and I writing a couple other projects that had to do with that kind of tribal mentality that happens between men. You know, how we basically try to emulate that in all our relationships—this innate need and desire to be part of a tribe, to be part of something, define common ground with other people, to represent something, to fight for something, to be fierce about something. All that was what I was dealing with creatively, and I just found that ink—what it represented emotionally to me—I found it aesthetically sort of visually compelling. They're just incredibly fierce-looking and beautiful.

So when you were starting out with *Sons of Anarchy*, where were you in your tattooing? I think at that point I had the first tribal tattoo. During the pilot process, I had started the Maori stuff, which was just very tedious, and I think I had over 10 sessions ultimately with Afa. But it was just sort of slow and tedious. I tend to go every five years before getting another piece. I literally just finished the left arm so I've got a few years. But I think the next piece I would do would be a back piece, and I would seek out Freddy to do that. He's done some amazing work on people

You mean Freddy Corbin? Yeah. Freddy came to me through a buddy of mine who is also part of the show and Freddy, basically for nothing, created the reaper insignia for us. Those types of tattoos were not anything that I had on me, nor is it really my style, but I really loved the idea. You know, we went to Freddy with what we wanted in terms of the reaper and the scythe and all that stuff. But it's one thing to say, "Hey, this is what I kind of want it to look like"—and then to have somebody actually turn it around and deliver this really amazing, iconic image.

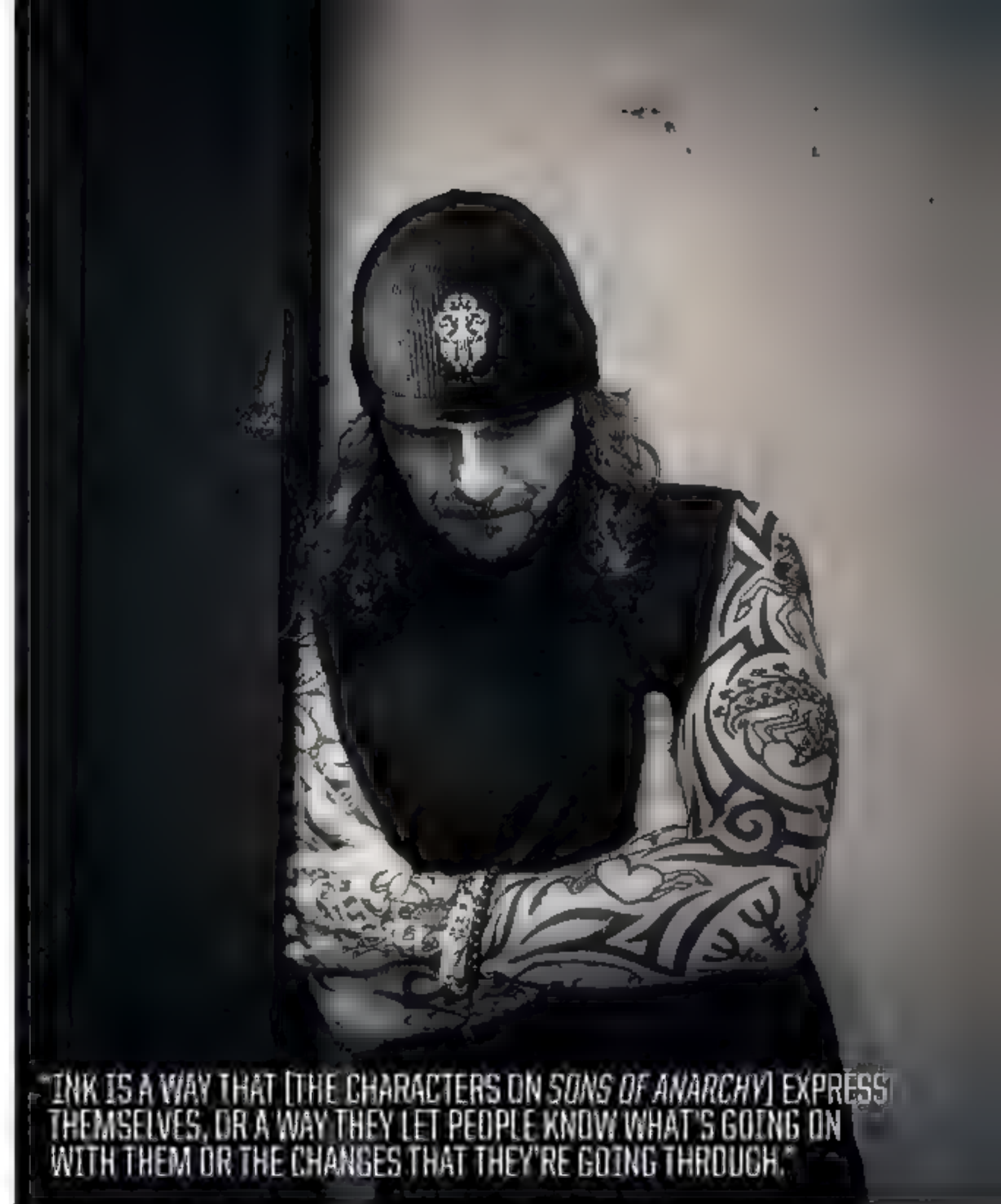
Tell us about how the actors in *SOA* get to help decide what their characters' tattoos look like. What's it like giving them that kind of artistic control? I wanted to allow the guys to help carve out their characters and decide what pieces they might have and what they represented. Like, Ron [Perlman] ended up getting pieces that represented his time in Vietnam. [Mark] Boone [Junior] ended up getting this really crazy snake on

his arm, and he had all this internal monologue about what that represented. So we had some of the guys come up with ideas, and then we had our makeup people and design people here, who then have relationships with graphic artists and tattoo artists who generate those pieces. And then once we sign off on the pieces we create stencils so that they can be quickly applied for the episode. They usually last two or three days before we have to replace them. We still give people the opportunity to add tattoos in between seasons, as these guys often do—Charlie [Hunnam] adding the names of his sons over the last couple of seasons and Ron adding something this year. Our guys will have different ideas for their character. I know a lot of these guys. Ink is a way that they express themselves, or a way they let people know what's going on with them or the changes that they're going through. So we pretty much let the guys do what they want—as long as it doesn't fly in the face of who I think the character is.

Do a majority of the cast members have their own ink? Yes, actually. I know Charlie has his own tattoo. Charlie has a big one on his back that we have to actually cover up every time we put the reaper tat on his back. I know Ryan [Hurst] has tats and Tommy [Fanagan] has some tats. I know Theo [Rossi] has a bunch of tats. I don't think Ron has any tattoos. I don't think Kim [Coates] has any tattoos. I think Dayton [Carie] has tattoos. So yeah, I would say a majority of my cast, including my wife.

What's it like being married to Peggy Bundy? I don't know. Peg is dead.

Do you have a lot of fans send you photos of *Sons of Anarchy* tattoos they've gotten? Oh my God, yes. Not so much in off-season, but while the show is running I'll get a few a week. Some people actually go and get the back tattoo. A lot of people get the reaper. I've had one guy get my Sutter Ink logo done on his shoulder. Katey and Charlie tell this rather terrifying story. They're at some bike convention where they were signing autographs and this guy came and had Katey and Charlie sign his arm with a Sharpie, and then came back about



three hours later and he'd had a tattoo artist permanently tattoo their signatures to his arm. For me, it's a weird mix of being astonished and appalled and flattered. Do you know what I mean? I love the fact that people feel as part of and connected to the show as they do and they want to embrace it and remember it. And then there's a part of me that thinks, What happens 10 years from now when we're not on the air and people are like, What the hell is that on your arm? But yes, we have a lot of passionate fans that tend to show up with ink.

Tell us about *Outlaw Empires*, the new show on the Discovery Channel you're executive producing. I've always been a fan of documentary series. I had conversations with the Discovery Channel, and we went back and forth with different ideas and we came up with this idea of doing a documentary series on outlaw empires on large criminal dynasties. I was intrigued with the idea that we would be able to tell the story through the point of view of the individual, meaning that it would be done from the outlaw's point of view rather than from a historical or a law enforcement point of view. So that we would actually get inside

and talk to these individual members and try to understand what drew them to the life—why did they become part of it? what happened? where are they now?—and really use their stories to give context to the world rather than just sort of a dry, exploitative overview of bad guys doing bad things, which is what I did not want to do. So that's really what the premise was. I think for the most part we've been able to go in and tell these stories—I think probably for the first time—from some point of objectivity.

You talked about a potential back piece. What else does the future hold for your ink? I have these two pieces on my arms that really go all the way up onto my shoulders and start to extend into my back. And my sense is that I'd try to tie them all together in some kind of a cool back piece. I like exploring different styles, and I think I'd probably want to go to a different artist to do that next piece, and have it not be tribal, and really try to explore a different genre of art. I know it's traditional to do sort of a life story—a life history in the back piece. I think that's probably why I'd seek out a guy like Freddy [Corbin]. That's where my head's going for the next piece. ■

✦ the pit and the pendulum

Drawing from literary heavyweights like Edgar Allan Poe, the Grimm Brothers, and Dante, The Inked Magazine Music Tour headliner, Alesana, creates an awesomely dark experience.

BY CRISTINA GUARINO
PHOTOS BY BRYAN REGAN



FITTING IN WAS NEVER AN OPTION FOR ALESANA.

and they've gained all the more fans for it. The self-proclaimed pop-metal band blends fierce growls and smooth vocals in a way that's not "hardcore," "screamo," "metalcore," or any of the other labels it's so popular to put on bands with a screaming vocalist. To play on the subgenres, they originally dubbed themselves "sweetcore" because, according to a friend, they were just too damn sweet to be hardcore. Throw in the uplifting lyrics, the literature-based storytelling, and the inspiring messages the band calls PMA (Positive Mental Attitude), and you've got something that is hard to find in the music industry: originality.

The six-member band may seem at first glance to have too many cooks in the kitchen, but it's their size they credit for their creativity. Songwriters Shawn Milke (lead vocals, rhythm guitar, piano) and Patrick "Peezee" Thompson (lead guitar) craft the band's inspiring lyrics, while Dennis Lee (*unclean* vocals), Jeremy Bryan (drums, percussion), Shane Crump (bass guitar, backing vocals), and former Eyes Set to Kill guitarist Alex Torres (another lead guitar) make up the rest of the three-vocal, three-guitar onslaught that is Alesana.

From left: Patrick Thompson, Alex Torres, Jeremy Bryan, Shane Crump, Dennis Lee, Shawn Milke









"We don't try to be like anyone else or to be something we're not," Milke says. "By having six members we are able to pull off the same guitar and vocal harmonies in a live setting that we have on the record. That means no Auto-Tune, no backing tracks, no compromising anything for the live performance (like The INKED Magazine Music Tour, fuck yeah!)—something the heavily themed albums deserve. Since 2006, when they released their first full-length, *On Frail Wings of Vanity and Wax*, the band has been choosing a literary concept for each record they put out. "Dennis and I are both big literature nerds," Milke says. "I've always loved music, so I thought it was a good way to get my stories out there in a different kind of way. It separates us from our peers. Not many bands do it the way we do it." And everything they do has this kind of personal touch, down to the name of the band. Alesana was taken from Aliceanna Street in Baltimore, the block on which Milke and Thompson grew up.

Frail Wings was based on Greek mythology and was followed in 2008 by the Brothers Grimm fairy tale-inspired *Where Myth Fades to Legend*, featuring slightly darker lyrics than the band's typical PMA. "I wanted to work with fairy tales, specifically the Brothers Grimm's, because most people don't realize how dark some of them are," Milke explains. The darker theme continued a year later when the band released the first album in a trilogy, *The Emptiness*, which was influenced by the work of Edgar Allan Poe. The second installment, *A Place Where the Sun Is Silent* (2011), was inspired by Dante Alighieri's *The Inferno*.

But despite these darker themes, Alesana is still upbeat. The band is adorned in colorful tattoos, ranging from the band-wide PMA acronym and heart logo from their EP reissue *Try This With Your Eyes Closed* to individual pieces like Milke's Legend of Zelda half-sleeve. Their uplifting lyrics stick with their fans, both in mind and on skin: "There's a bit of a cult following with the whole literature theme. People will get lines of the stories we base our music on tattooed on them," Milke says. "The craziest one was when someone had me write down some of our lyrics and got them tattooed in my handwriting."

While the band gears up for the INKED Music Tour, they're also working on their final installment of the trilogy. "We never stop," Milke laughs. "If we had it our way, we'd put out two or three records a year." To continue their storytelling, the next album will be based on *A Wrinkle in Time*. "I've never wanted to be a diary-entry kind of band. That works for some people, but I do enough of that myself. I thought writing stories would be a cool way around that," Milke says.

Their tour begins in New York City on October 10 and runs through November 7, with a final stop in their pseudo-home of North Carolina. "It has been way too long since we have seen [our fans'] smiling faces, and what better way to do it than to hit the road and do what we do best?" Milke says. "In addition to bringing some very close friends of ours along for the ride, we will be playing material that spans our entire career, as well as unleashing a surprise or two." Get your butts online, order your tickets, and experience the story for yourself. ■

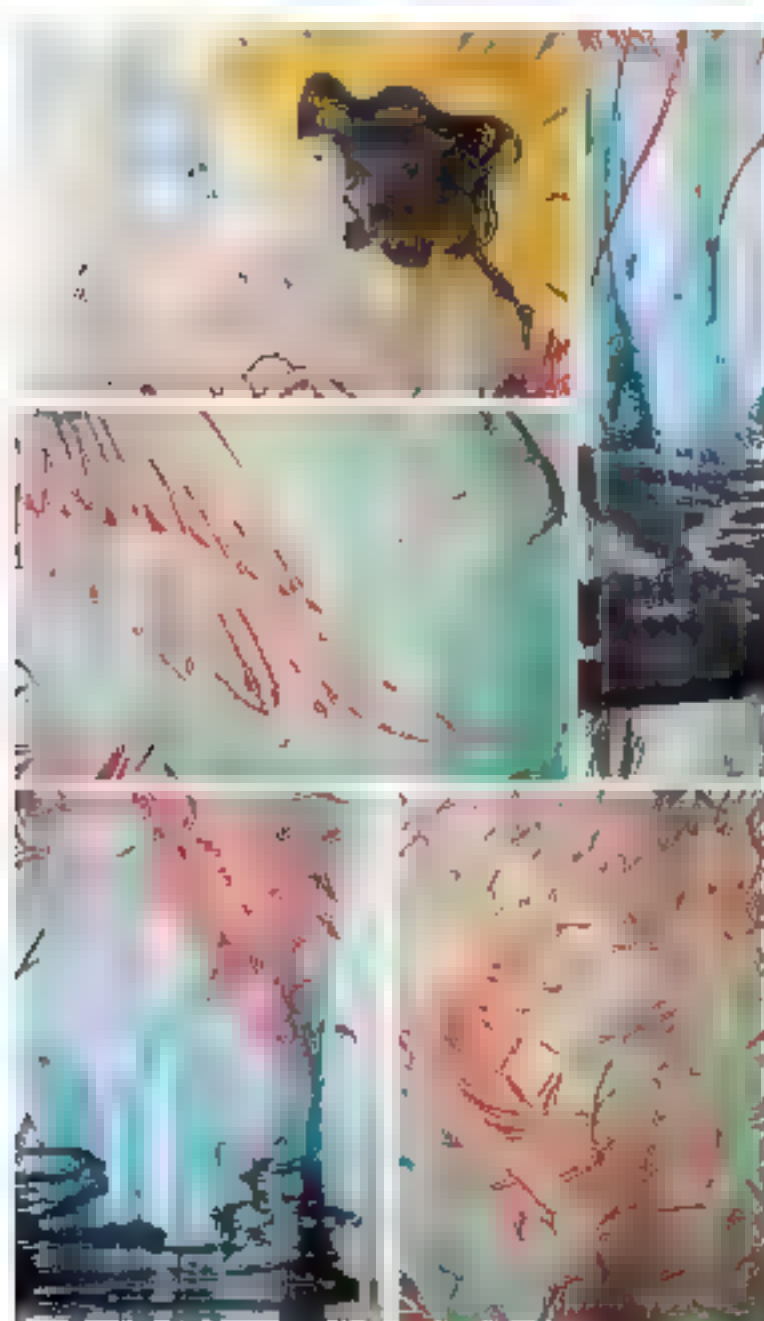
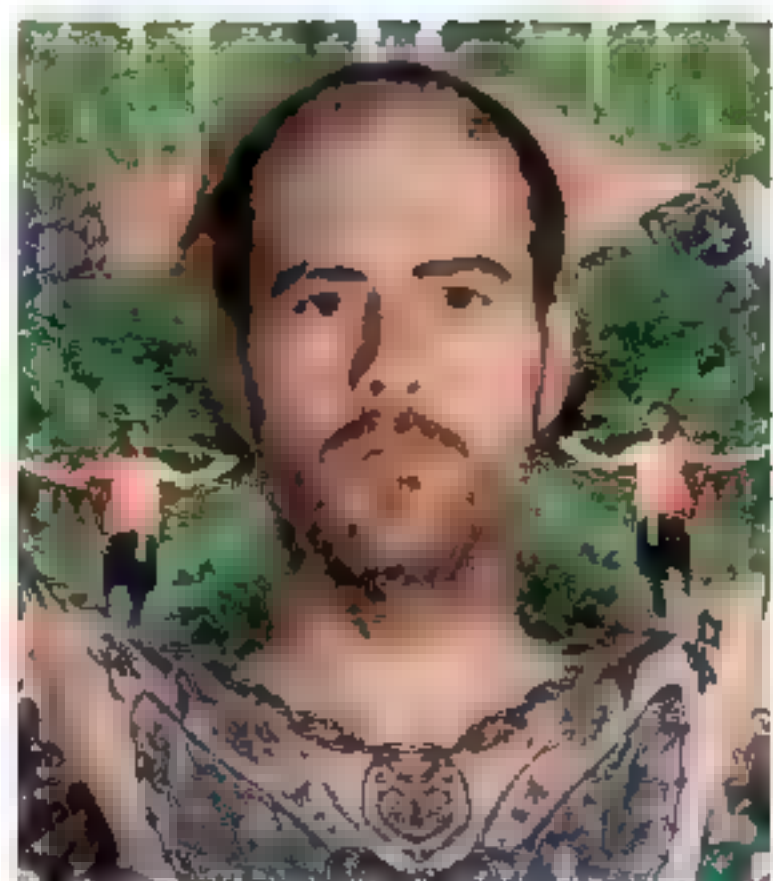
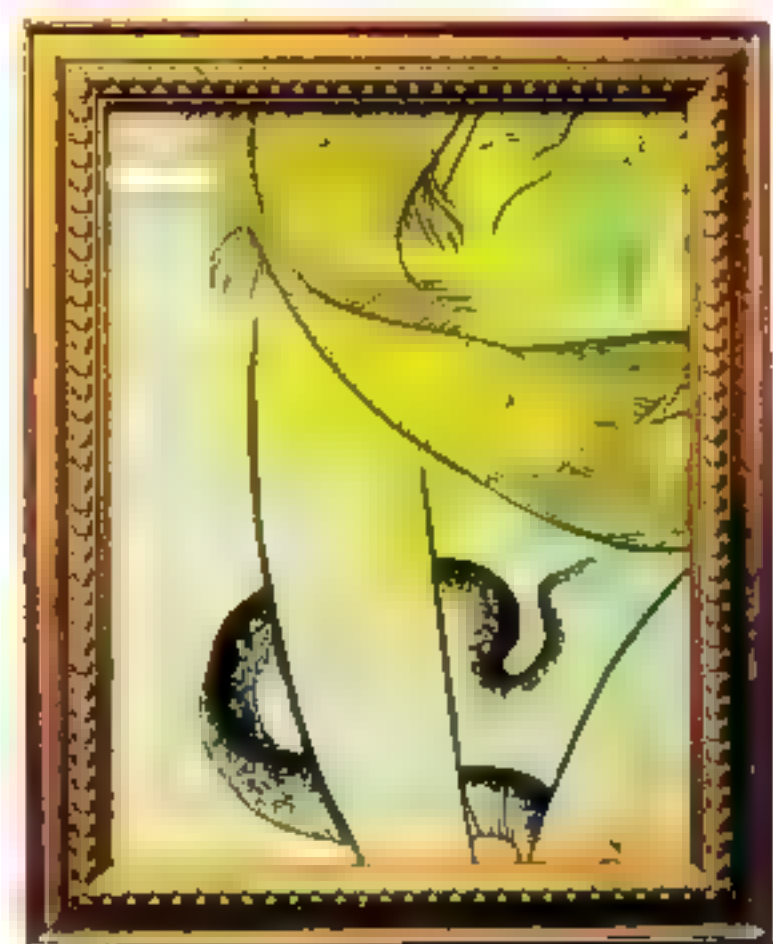
From left: Dennis Lee, Shane Crump, Jeremy Bryan, Alex Torres, Patrick Thompson, Shawn Milke.

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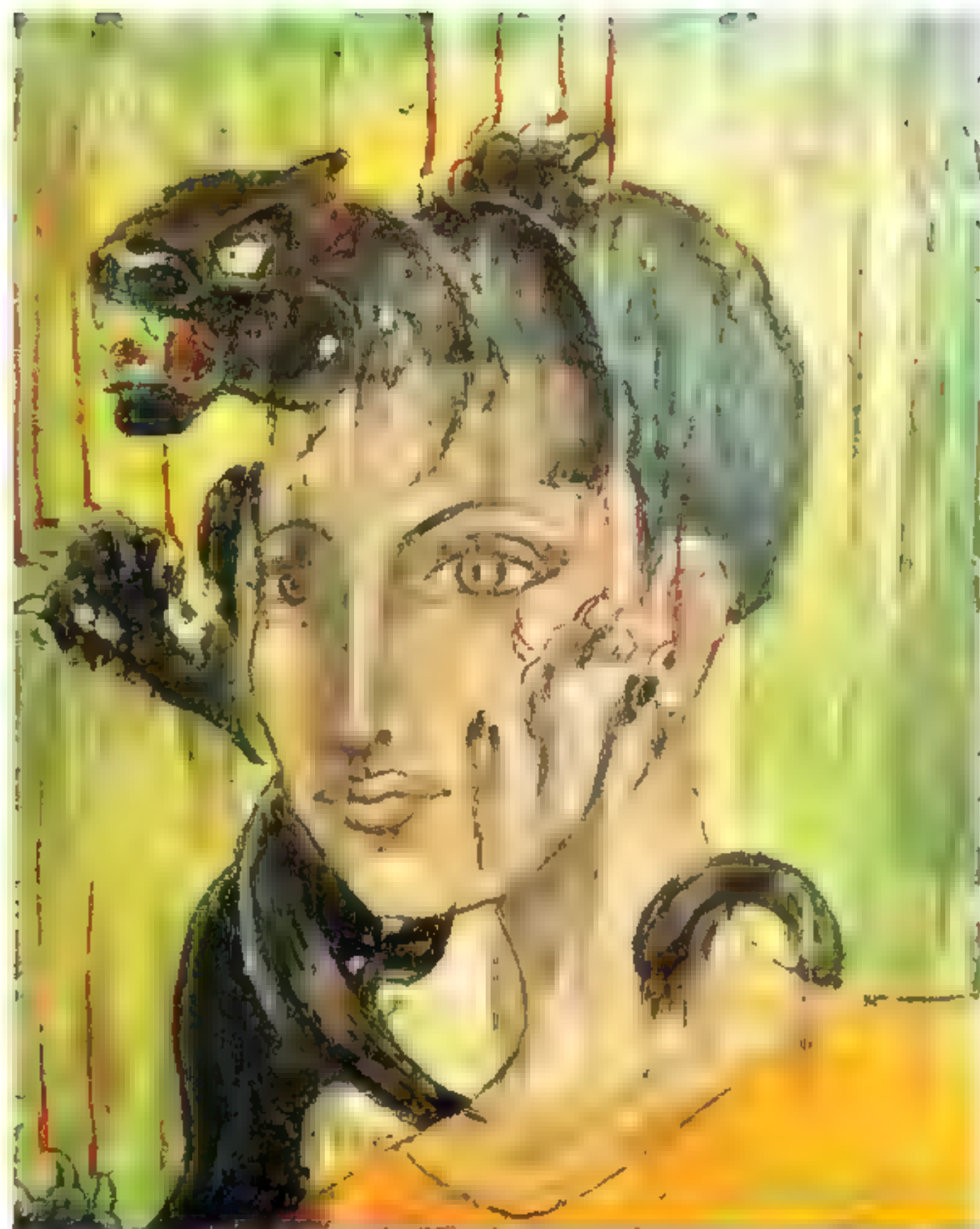
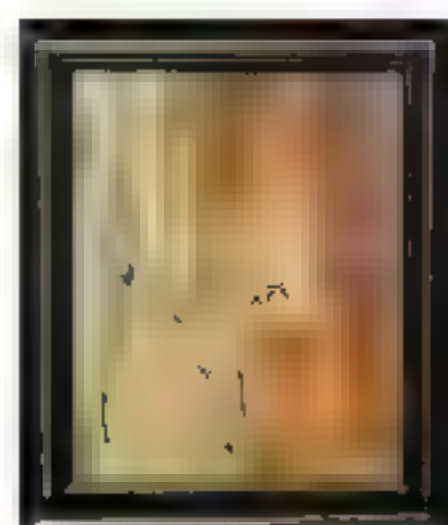
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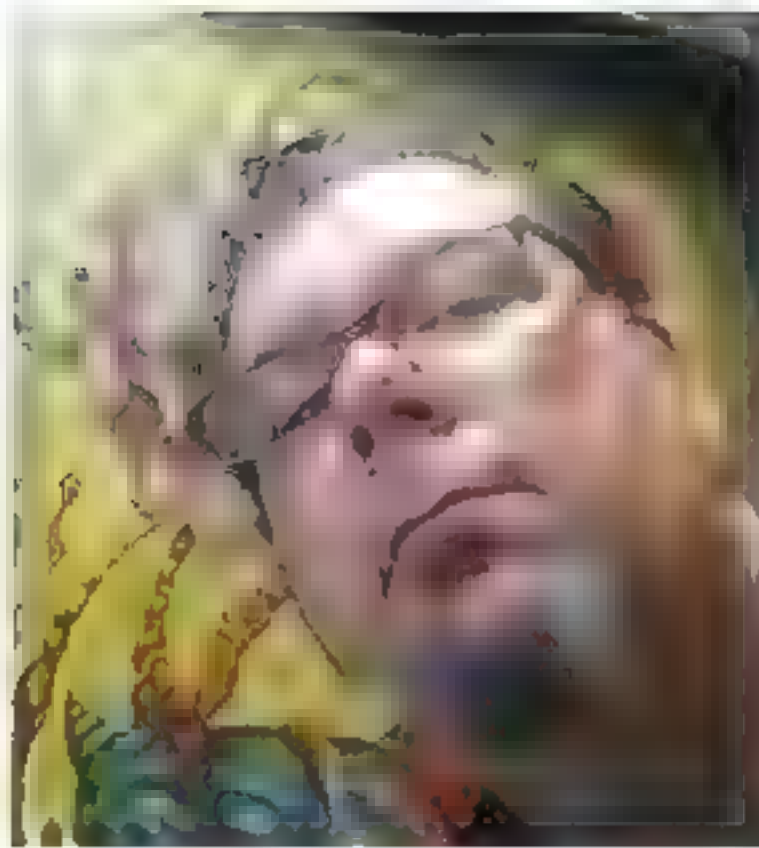
Clockwise from top left: Anabelle, Heavy Hat, tryptic, Coffee, Clifton, Carter, Unicorns Are Real, Ms. Ito.



CLIFTON W. CARTER JR.

With a mission to elevate art—tattoo and fine—the back end of Clifton W. Carter Jr.'s Etsy page reads “cLIFTonCARTer.” He tattoos out of his private studio in San Francisco and Living Ghost Tattoo Parlour in Tempe, AZ, but paints in a much more spiritual realm. “A lot of times when I paint a fine art piece, it’s a release from the confinement of tattooing,” he says. “This can be very self-indulgent or cathartic. However, I really want to inspire people through my work.” A religious man and a thinker, Carter often uses the canvas not only as an escape but as a place to work out his ideas on life. “The idea of beauty is a big deal for me,” Carter says. “But poverty, pain, and suffering seem to be issues that I deal with, as well as social justice and my inner turmoil of the conflict between religion

and social justice. My own hypocrisy is often exposed on canvas.” His process is amazing to watch—if you were to be the proverbial fly on the wall of his studio, you’d witness a physical man who is nothing but a conduit between his artistic life force and the canvas. “When I paint I can get really loose,” he says. “There is usually a lot of freedom when I paint. Tattooing, on the other hand, is quite constrained but can result in a more traditionally accessible image. My paintings are weirder and more folksy.” The perfect marriage of his highbrow and lowbrow art? “People getting tattoos inspired by my paintings,” Carter says. “Tattooing is a type of art that resonates with people in a really great way. Why else would people spend so much money on something with no resale value?”



POOCH

If H.R. Giger and Rat Fink's Ed Roth had a love child born in a demented Floridian theme park, Mike "Pooch" Pucciarelli would be the spawn. His gritty pieces have a cocktail of influences, from H.P. Lovecraft novels and Ray Harryhausen films to lewd comics and fine artists like Dali. Throughout his work, Pooch critiques the facades of modern society in a style that resembles a tormented child's carnival nightmare. When asked which art form between tattoo and fine art seems more lasting, Pooch explains, "Of course fine art will last longer if the

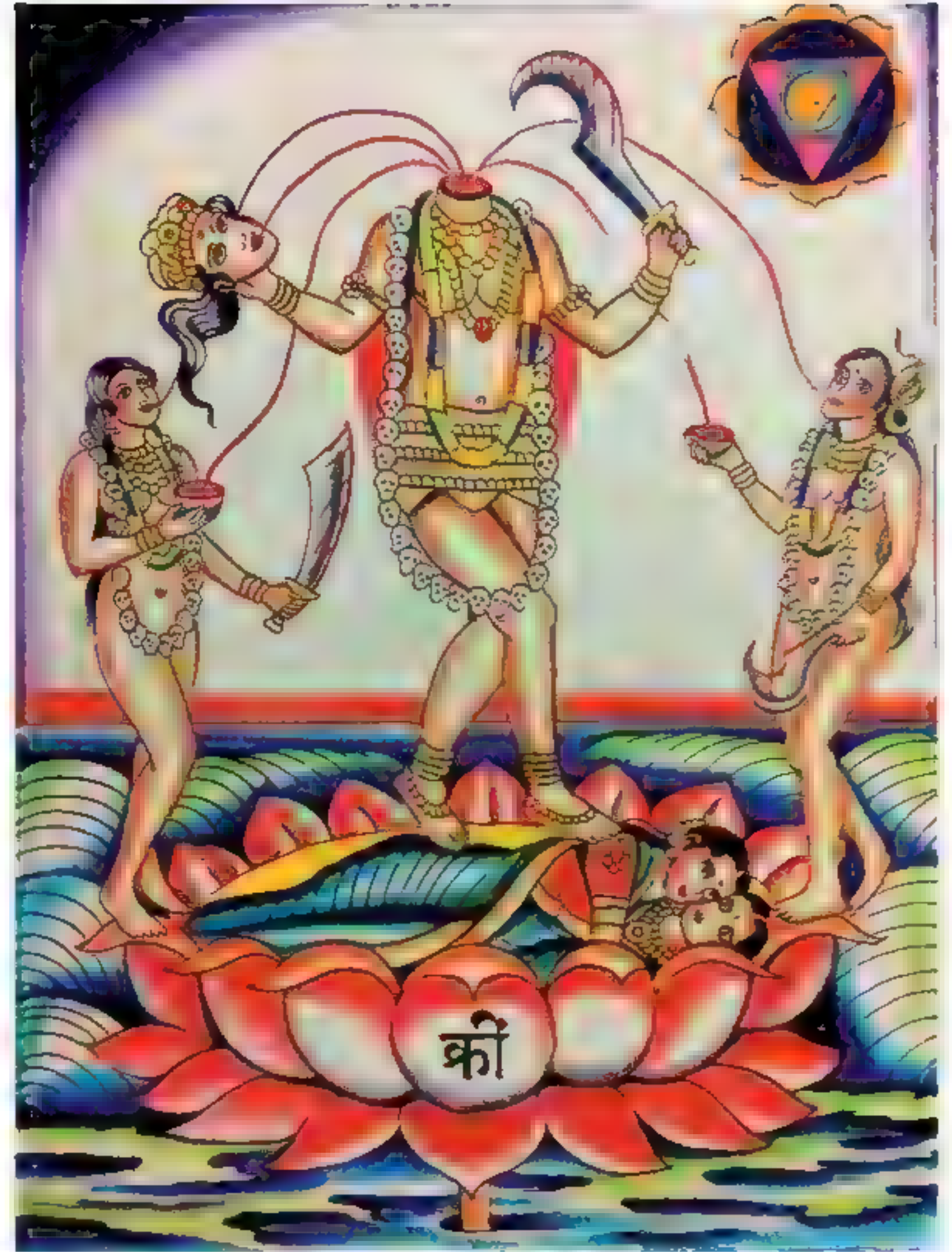
artist's work is in a museum, but a tattoo artist with equal importance could be remembered as a visionary or innovator, a though the tattoo will be gone. Maybe someone should make a tattoo photo museum." Or perhaps someone should make a tattoo artist hall of fame with a traveling inked sideshow. Pooch would like that, given that he and his brothers once captained a tugboat turned floating tattoo shop. But Pooch's tattoo style isn't remotely wobbly or fishy (salty, maybe). "I do more precise line work with a tattoo. To me, tattooing is more like graphic art rather than painting. I prefer tattoos with outlines," he says. And we prefer tattoo artists with twisted dreams.

Clockwise from top left: Mike "Pooch" Pucciarelli, *Nautilus Girl*, *Seeland*, *Demon 1*

ROBERT RYAN

Robert Ryan's work is electric. Lacking traditional American bold outline with vibrant psychedelic color, Ryan recalls the metaphysical symbolism North America was founded upon, with an occult twist. This New Jersey native's work is what Don Ed Hardy's hypothetical acid trip probably looked like. From an owl with a sword in tow and a rainbow star bursting out of its chest, to a blinded Madonna abaze behind a two-headed panther, Ryan's tattoos are magnetic and otherworldly. "I really love the Kachhat painters of India and the Thangka painters of Nepal and Tibet. They might be my favorite," he says, which explains the heavy symbolism throughout his art. He couldn't choose which medium he prefers, though: "I like them both [because] I like the impact of a tat-

too, but I like the freedom that painting allows. I guess I develop a lasting relationship with my paintings because I actually possess a few of them. A tattoo walks out the door no matter how much you become attached to it," Ryan explains. But Ryan is at peace with the ironic impermanence of tattoos. "Tattoos are as permanent as the body. I have personally viewed paintings that were 600 years old. I have stood in temples that were 2,000 years old, decorated and adorned with love and inspiration that still resonates today. So as powerful as tattooing can be, it's also totally elusive and born to expire," says the tattooer of the ways art can have a sticky history. The human hand emerging from a bird's torso and holding a chalice will stick with us.



Clockwise from far left:
Durga Ma, Chinnmasta
Mahavidya, Om Jesus
Hare Christ, Robert
Ryan, Reincarnation,



Clockwise from top left: *Blue Velvet*, *Eyes Wide Shut*, *Paradiso*, *Nights*, *Cris Cleen*, *Hotel Room*.

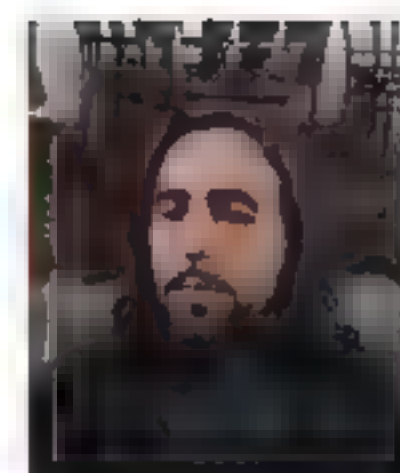


CRIS CLEEN



From *Saved Tattoo* in Brooklyn, Cris Cleen's work is as crisp as his name sounds. From elegant and wafish 1920s-era broads to anthropomorphic snakes and skulls, every one of Cleen's pieces evokes a surreal nostalgia. And while all of his tattoos are timeless masterpieces, he doesn't care that they exist only in skin. "I don't mind my art dying with the wearer," he says. The truth is that he has no desire for his art to end up dusty and on display in a sterile room: "Paper is easier to work with, naturally, but I don't have any interest in having work in a museum or held up in someone's closet if it doesn't match their furniture. I really love the way tattoos look on the

body and the way they live in the world. I think I've had striking images of tattoos last longer for me than any paintings or fine art I've seen." For Cleen, tattoo art and fine art are not lowbrow versus highbrow, although it may seem that way to the elite. Indeed, to him, tattoos are fine art. So it's no wonder that his tattoo style mimics the classy aesthetic of yesteryear's illustrations. And when we say *classy*, we mean devils in top hats penetrating ladies in gowns. "I try to explore things that are more visceral and less tattoo-related, but also try out ideas that I would love to explore in tattoo work as well," he says. "I let my heart do the talking every time."



Clockwise from far left: *Purified in Blood*, Jondix, *Raking Light*, TAM, *Leblanc*.



JONDIX

To some, tattooing is merely embedding skin with ink; to Jondix, it's a spiritual experience. Detailed line work, ancient patterning and reverent iconography make you feel as though you're staring at a fresco in a house of worship rather than looking at a tattoo. And that's why the mystically guided find themselves under Jondix's needle. Whether the Barcelona-born artist is approaching skin or the canvas, his method is a Zen one. Of the artistic process, Jondix says he aims to create "something that I feel at the moment from

my subconscious. It's a totally surreal experience. I do what I am." By unlocking his psyche, Jondix transcends the tangible realm and creates pieces that look otherworldly. He sees the difference between tattooing and painting as the "transformation of a person versus total artistic freedom." So where does the inspiration for such sacred-looking work stem from? His influences are not only his predecessors, but also life in general: "Just to mention some specific names, Mati Klarwein, who I met before his death, and Paul Lafoley were influential. But really, any art book that I pick up randomly will inspire me, or music and beauty in general," he says. For this Spanish tattooer, a hallowed outlook toward art is appropriate, because the way Jondix sees it, "Fine Art is the most important thing on the planet. When civilizations disappear, their art is the only thing that survives." Long live the ink.



Artful Dodger

Own the streets in fall's classic
denim and art-inspired tees.

photos by KRISTIINA WILSON
styled by MARTIN WAITT



Hurley shirt, JvdF
bracelets, Prism
sunglasses and ring,
stylist's own hat



Zanerobe tank
top, General
Idea shorts, JvdF
bracelets, mode's
own socks, Vans
shoes, Prism
sunglasses.





G-Star Raw button-down; Proje jeans; JvdF bracelets; Vans shoes.



AISa nts sh rt.
G Star Raw jeans
JvdF bracelets
Vans shoes
sty st s own hat.



Hurley tank top JvdF bracelets Prism sunglasses.






Hurley shirt JvdF bracelets Pnsm sunglasses sty list's own hat



Zanero's T-shirt

A full-page photograph of a man with tattoos and sunglasses leaning against a red brick wall. Above him is a large, white clock face with black numbers and hands. The man is wearing a white tank top, blue jeans, and black sneakers. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The clock face is a prominent feature in the upper half of the image.

Grooming: Katie Mellinger for Shiseido
Model: Ash Stymest at SOUL Mode Management
Location: Red Square Building, special thanks to Jenni Miller

Hurley tank top,
J&Co. jeans; JvdF
bracelets, Creative
Recreation shoes,
Prism sunglasses

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Aftercareless: /'after-ke(ə)erlis/ (adj.) 1. neglecting or taking insufficient care of your skin after getting a new tattoo, piercing or body modification. 2. not having high quality aftercare available for your clients in your tattoo or piercing studio. 3. sending a customer to another location to purchase aftercare. 4. listening to friends' aftercare regiments over the professional that completed the artwork on you. 5. recommending or putting products on your new body art that are not designed specifically for them.

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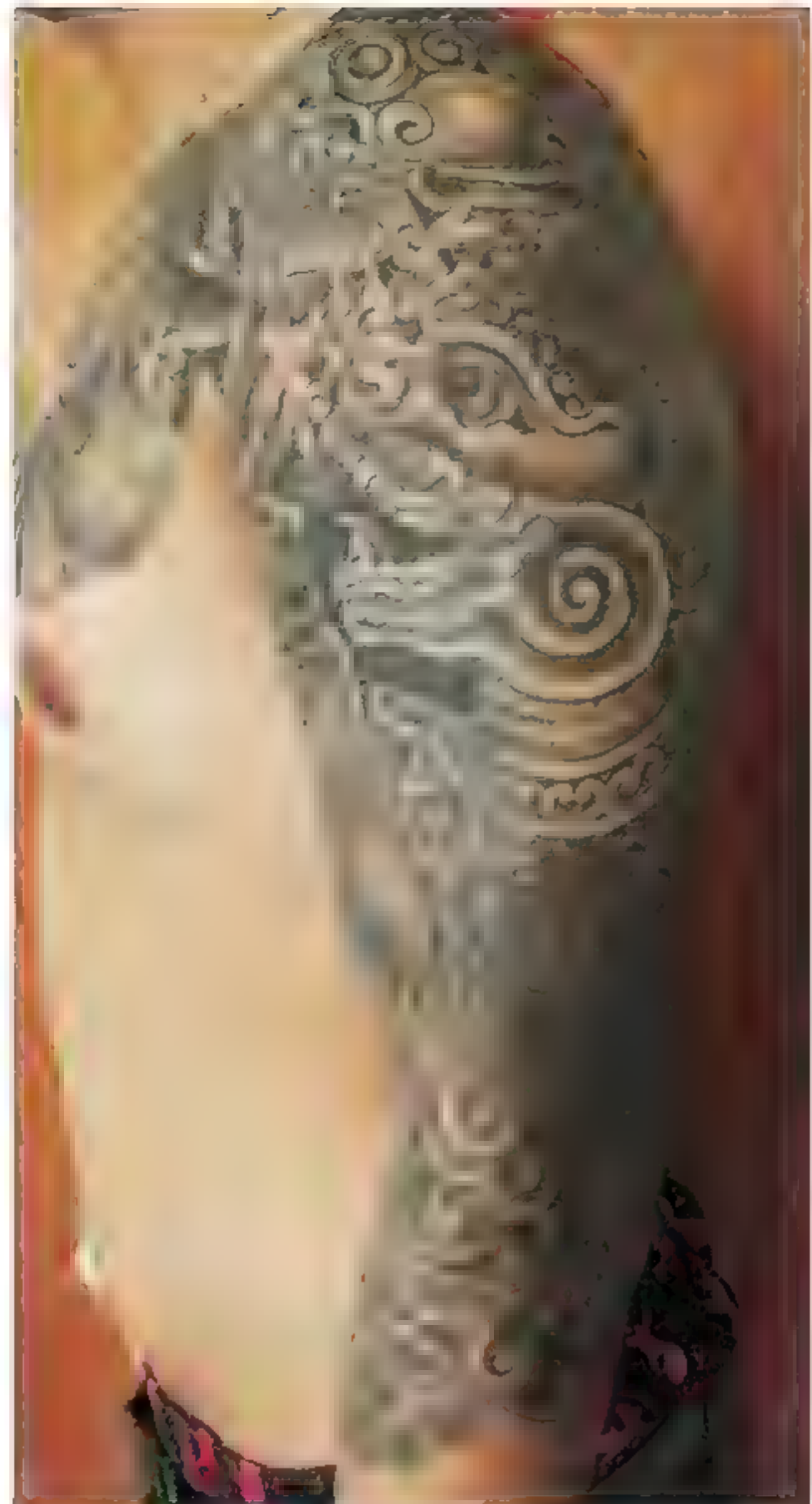
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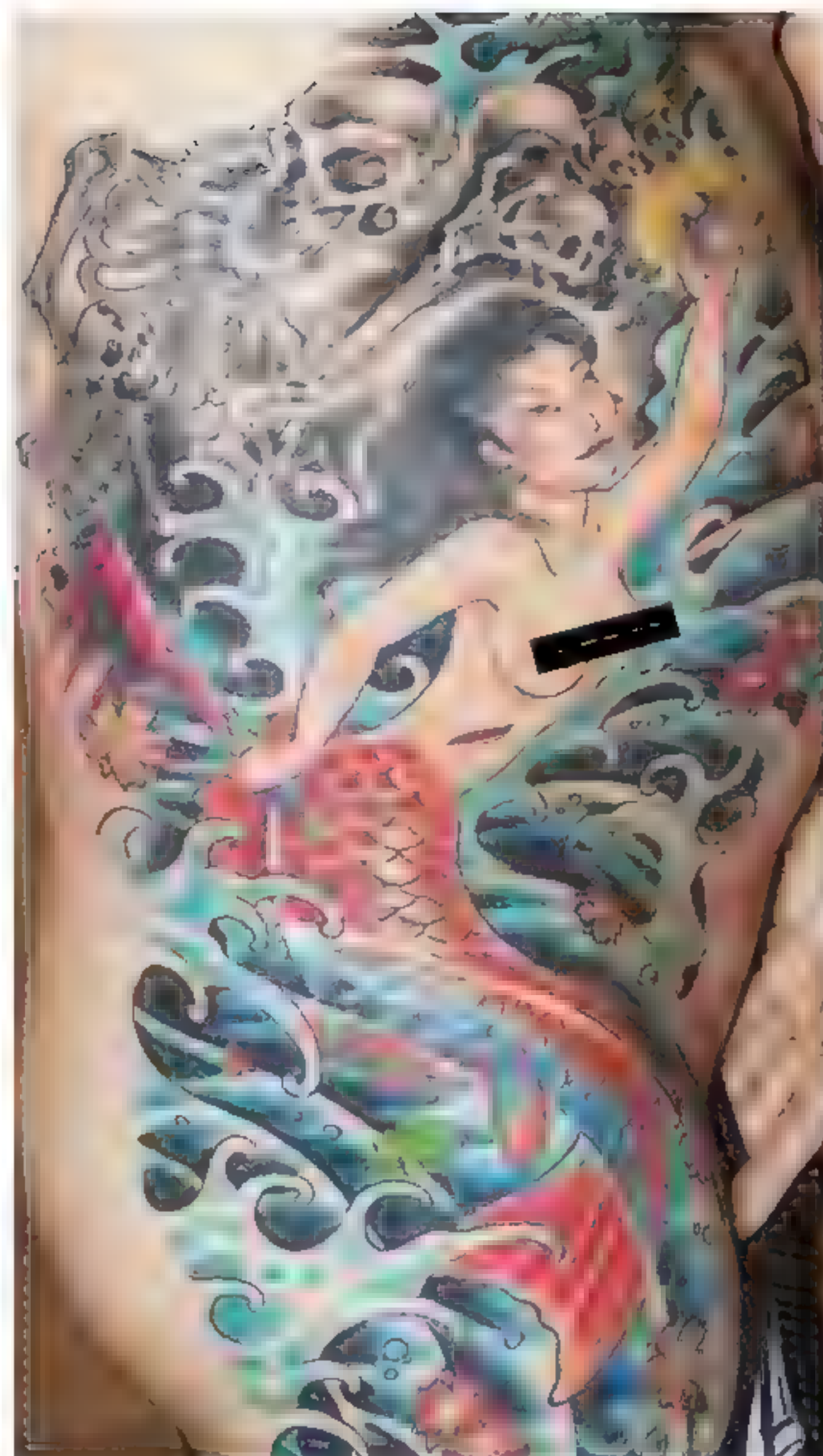
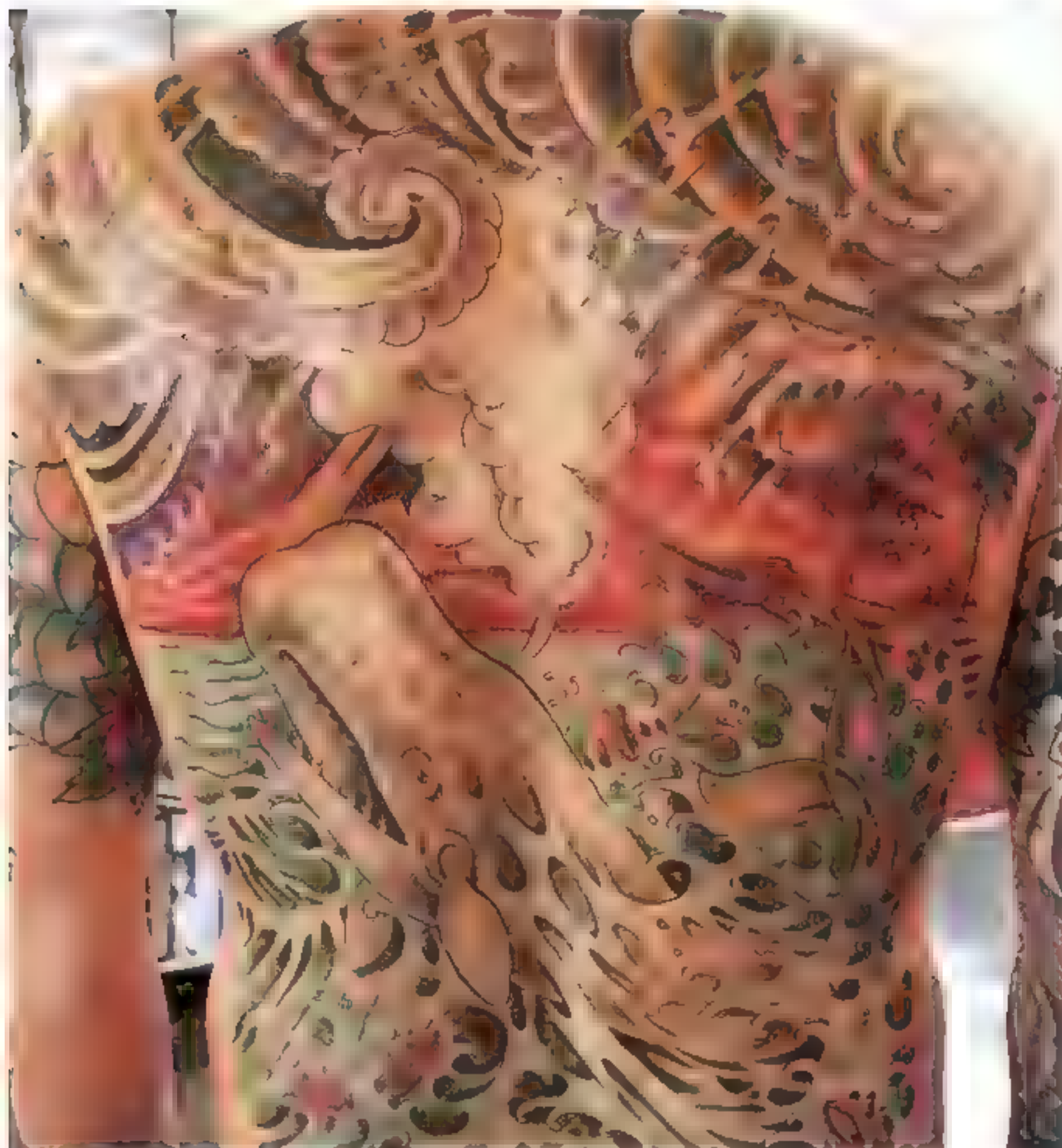
With more than 30 years of tattooing under his belt, Fip Buchanan is one of the most experienced artists in southern California—an old-style tattooer with no boundaries whose repertoire ranges from Japanese to realistic to traditional pieces. After a fateful first experience with tattoos in 1979, he decided to dedicate his life to creating unique art pieces on skin. He cofounded Avalon Tattoo in Pacific Beach, San Diego, and then opened Avalon Tattoo II in North Park, San Diego. Buchanan is humble artisan with the demeanor of a workmanlike tattooer.

INKED: How did you start tattooing? Did you have any mentors?

FIP BUCHANAN: I started in Altoona, PA, in 1979. I was interested in tattooing already, and while working as a sales clerk at a lumberyard, I met a couple of people with fresh tattoos. At that time, there were no tattoo shops in Altoona. I asked who did the tattoos and they both told me Mike Lockett. Within a month or so I was getting tattooed at my kitchen table by none other than Mike Lockett! I asked him if he was willing to help me learn to tattoo, and he was. He ended up loaning me his equipment, and soon I was tattooing out of

my house. I probably did about 50 tattoos over a three-year period, and then I moved to Pittsburgh to go to the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. While there, I met a local tattooist named Red Schuster, who helped me out a lot. He had already been tattooing for about 10 years and knew way more than I did about it. He had a van equipped for tattooing and had been tattooing at local county fairs. I ended up doing that with him in the summer of 1983 and 1984, along with Duke Miller. Duke helped me a good bit too. The fairs were my boot camp, and those two guys were like my drill sergeants. I became good friends with them,

"TATTOOING IS STILL FUN, BUT NOT NEARLY AS LUCRATIVE AS IT USED TO BE, DUE TO THE QUANTITY OF TATTOO SHOPS NOW."



and we had lots of fun together. It was all a great experience for me.

Did you have other influences? My main tattoo influence would be Ed Hardy, for sure. Other than him, Jack Rudy and Bob Roberts also had a big impact on me. When I met Red Schuster, he had photo albums of pictures he took at some of the early tattoo conventions of the late '70s and early '80s, and the work of those guys blew me away. It really made me aware of what you could do with tattooing. I met them all years later and am actually good friends with Jack Rudy and Ed Hardy, and got to work for both of them. I got tattooed by Jack in 1985, and I learned from him by observation, and also by asking questions. In 1987 I was tattooed by Bob Roberts, and paid careful attention while he was tattooing me and picked up some things that way. In 1991 I was tattooed by Ed Hardy for the first time and that was a real experience. He is so intense when he works—it's obvious he goes to another place. It's simply amazing to watch him work.

Which are your biggest influences in figurative art? I was always a big fan of underground comics of the late '60s, and also the poster art of the period. Favorite artists of that period would be Greg Irons, Rick Griffin, S. Clay Wilson, and [Arton] Kelley and [Stanley] Mouse. I also love van Gogh, Rembrandt, and da Vinci, although I don't think they impact my tattooing much, if at all. As far as contemporary artists, I like Eric White, Owen Smith, and Glenn Barr.

What came first, the pencil or the tattoo machine? I've been drawing since I was 2 years old, so that definitely came before tattooing! My mother never throws anything away, and I still have drawings from when I was a little kid. She's a good artist, and is still doing art at age 86. She was for sure my initial reason for starting to draw.

Do you think that drawing skills are essential to be a good tattooist? Yes, of course it's essential to have good drawing skills to be a

good tattooist, now more than ever. Clients never come in and pick a design off the wall anymore. In fact, we don't even have any flash in our shop, except in the restroom. It's important to know how to manage tattoo machines and inks as well. You have to know your medium, whether it's tattooing or painting, to be able to do anything worthwhile with it. Tattooing presents unique challenges too, because of variations in skin. It's a bit different on everyone, and even varies by body part. There's also the "talking canvas" aspect of it, which you'll never have in any other medium. I do enjoy meeting and talking to people, though, so that's very rarely a problem for me.

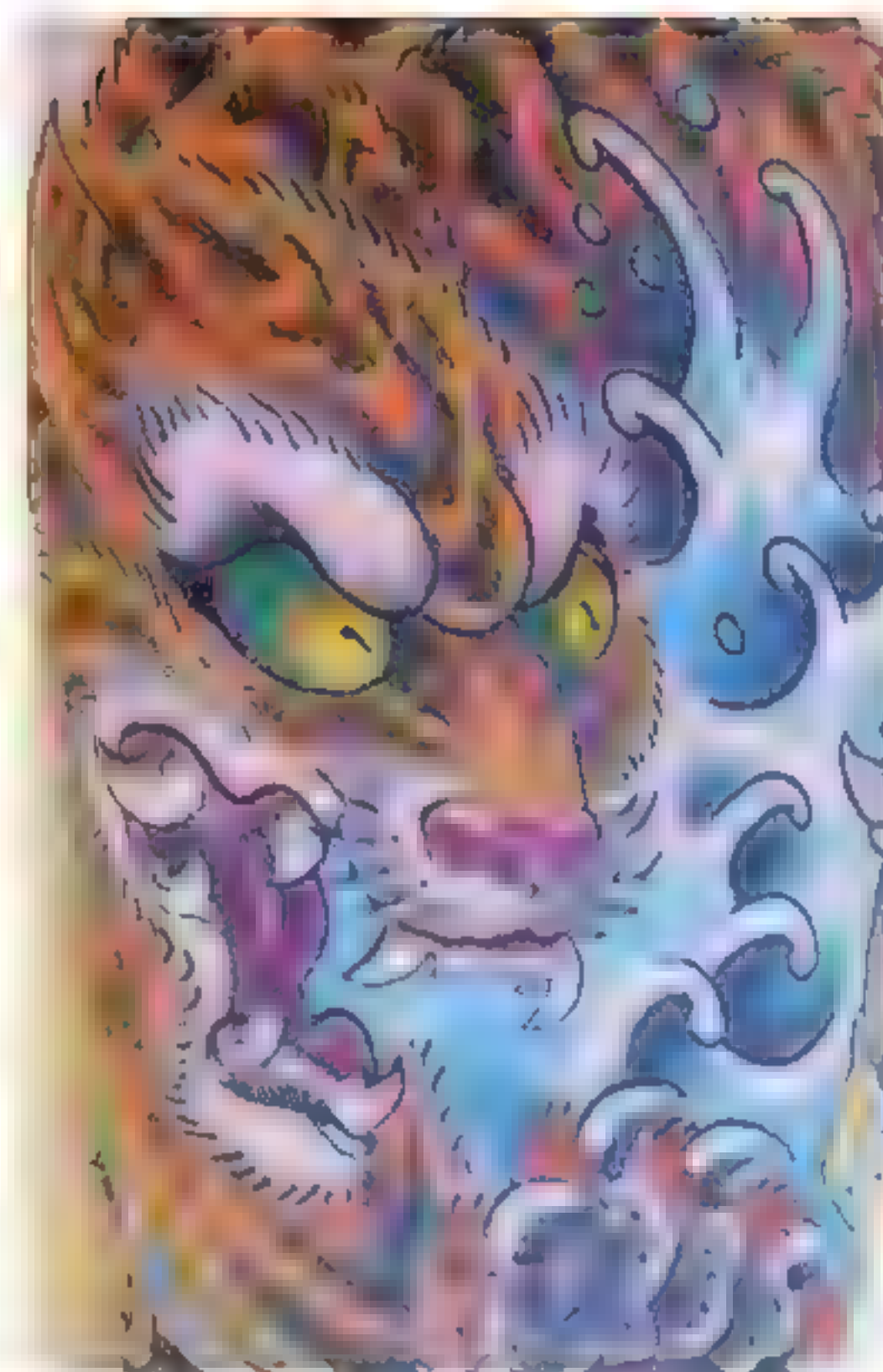
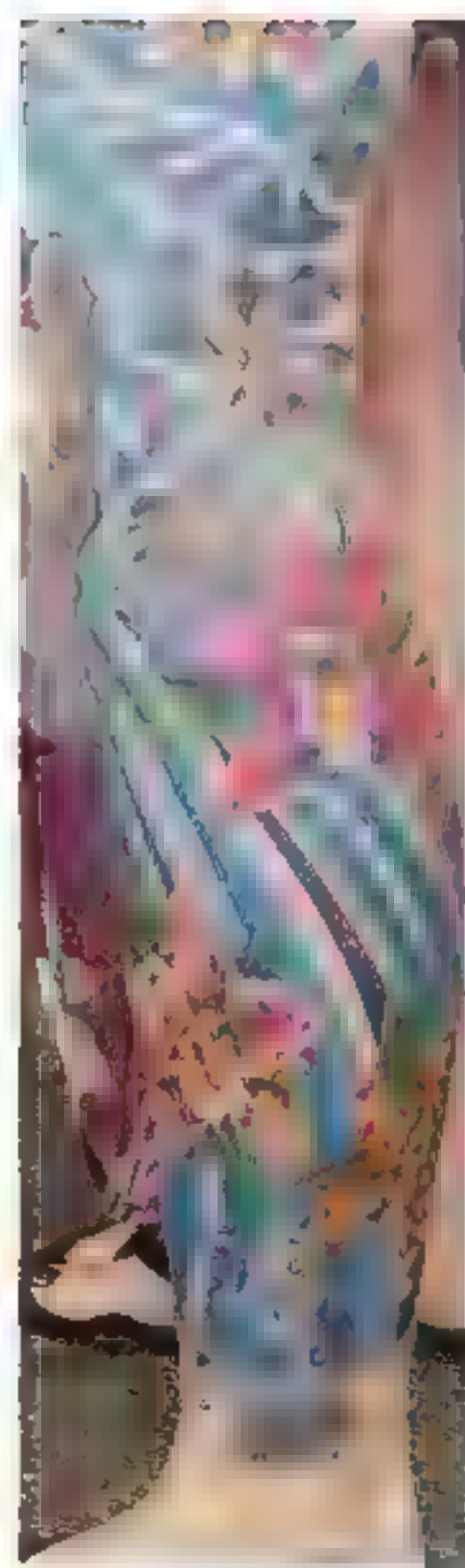
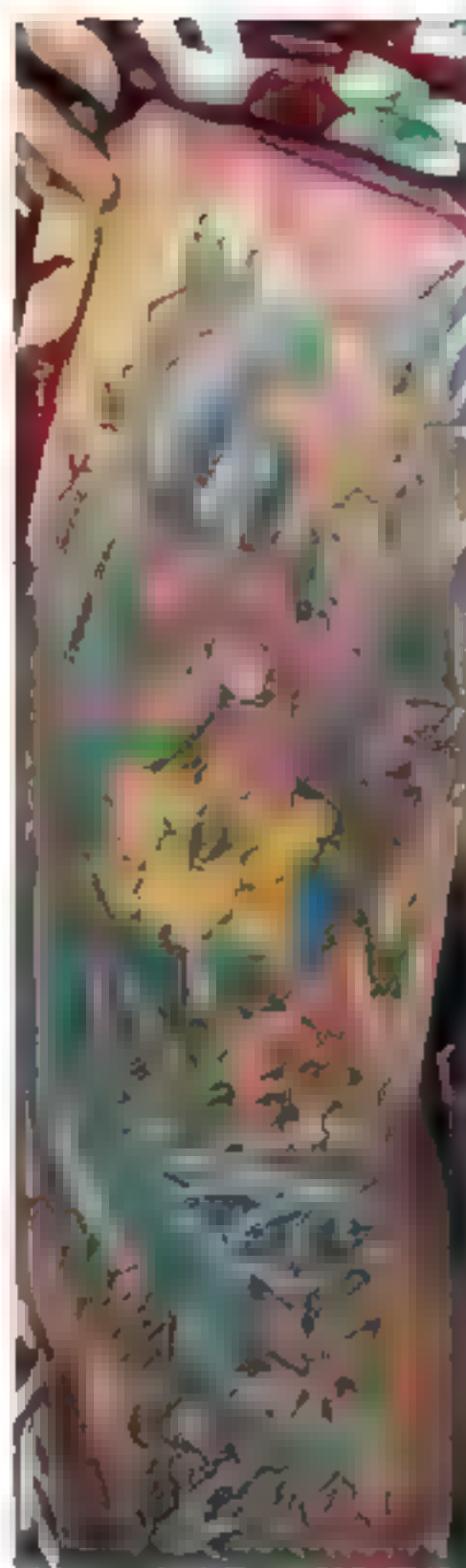
How would you describe your style? I do a lot of kind of Asian work that someone recently said had a "pop art" feel to it. Another artist friend of mine said it seemed very southern California, although he's from Canada and I'm pretty sure he was just joking with me. I do realize my take on Japanese tattooing is not nearly as traditional as

"WE DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY FLASH IN OUR SHOP, EXCEPT IN THE RESTROOM."

many other current tattooists, and to me, that's a good thing. There's a ton of great Japanese-style tattooing going on now by lots of artists, but the only problem is that it often looks the same. The artist's stamp isn't on it. My take on it may not be as authentic as others, but at least it looks like I did it, you know? Other than that, I like doing portraits in black and gray and all sorts of other tattoos. The variety keeps it interesting to me, my clients push me to try new things. I think my tattoo style is pretty traditionally based, as far as using linework, black shading, and color all in a strong way, whether I'm doing an American eagle or flowers across a woman's back.

Tell us about the guys you work with. Mike Stobbe is a good all-around tattooist and has been with Avalon since 1990. Dave Warshaw has been with me since 1999 and specializes in hyper-detailed black-and-gray work. He loves doing weird little creatures of his own design and also does really cool ballpoint pen drawings on wood. He also plays in a popular local band called the Creepy Creeps. They play music that's a cross between surf and haunted house music, and they have a wild stage show. Denny Besnard is originally from France, has been with the Avalon team since 2005, and is an amazing Japanese-style tattooer. I've never seen a faster tattooist than Denny either! Alessio Ricci is from Florence, Italy, where he worked with the master Maurizio Fionni. He has been with Avalon since 2007. He is a very precise tattooist who does beautiful traditional American and Japanese-style tattoos. Chris Cockrell has been with us since 2009 and does a wide range of styles—he can draw anything. He always does tons of cool watercolor paintings. We all have vastly different personalities and art styles, but somehow as a group it works. It's a delicate balance, though. We've tried a few people who just didn't work out—the balance was upset. But maybe that's just a nice way to say they were jerks anyway.

You used to be a regular guest at Ed Hardy's Tattoo City in San Francisco. How was it working alongside him? I really enjoyed working at Tattoo City. Ed Hardy is an amazing tattooist and a really wonderful person in general. He's super intelligent, witty, and pretty damn funny too. Any time he was in the shop it had a totally different energy—very positive, and it always kept me on my toes. I hope that the younger generation realizes what an impact he had on the whole tattoo scene, beginning in the early '70s. There's a movie out now called *Ed Hardy: Tattoo the World* that fea-



tures some of his epic work from the '70s and '80s that is still quite impressive today. His concepts and design sense are amazing.

What's the oddest request you've had from a client? A prepared-for-cooking chicken body with a chimpanzee head on it. The guy I tattooed it on said the chimp was the first chimp in space, and he always liked the picture. The chimp had this weird grimace-smile that was priceless. And he worked at the poultry department at a grocery store at the time, hence the chicken body. Pure genius!

What do you like to do on your days off? I enjoy hiking, going for a nice meal, playing guitar, watching movies, and of course, doing art.

Do you travel a lot? Do you like going to conventions? I like to travel and see new places. I went to China last year—that was a lot of fun. I've been to Japan, Europe, Canada, and Mexico. There are still plenty of places I'd like to see. I don't do that many conventions because I really prefer tattooing in my own shop, my own environment. I like being in my comfort zone; it's just so much easier. But I did recently tattoo at the Queen Mary Ink-N-Iron Convention on a couple of friends—I prepared all the artwork in advance—and that was fun. I do enjoy meeting new people and spending time with old friends at conventions, though. It's always interesting.

Have you seen any changes in the tattoo industry that concern you? There's been a big improvement in the artwork overall, which is a good thing. There are so many people tattooing now that

there are still way more mediocre—and just plain bad—tattooists than good ones. And there are just so many people doing it now. When I moved to San Diego in 1987, there were about six shops. Now there are about 160. That's the way it goes. What are you going to do?

What do you think of the tattoo reality shows? I am not a big fan of all these tattoo reality shows because quite often they present an unrealistic idea of how long a tattoo will take. On the other hand, I think that helps people get more prepared for the whole tattooing experience and [see] that a tattoo artist isn't someone to be afraid of. In that respect I think it has expanded the number of people who are getting tattooed. Of course, it has also increased the number of tattoo shops because everyone thinks what a fun and lucrative career it is. Tattooing is still fun, but not nearly as lucrative as it used to be, due to the quantity of tattoo shops now. I'm thankful that I'm so well established; it really hasn't affected me much. I'm still as busy as I want to be.

What would you say to an aspiring tattooist? I think people wanting to tattoo should seek out a proper apprenticeship and realize anything worthwhile takes time. Be willing to take the time to do it properly. This occupation needs to be your passion to succeed in it. It consumes your life, so don't go into it half-heartedly. If you are only vaguely interested in it or are only into it because you think it's cool and you'll make a ton of money at it, you better figure out what your true passion is. To succeed as a tattooist, tattooing has to be your passion. ■



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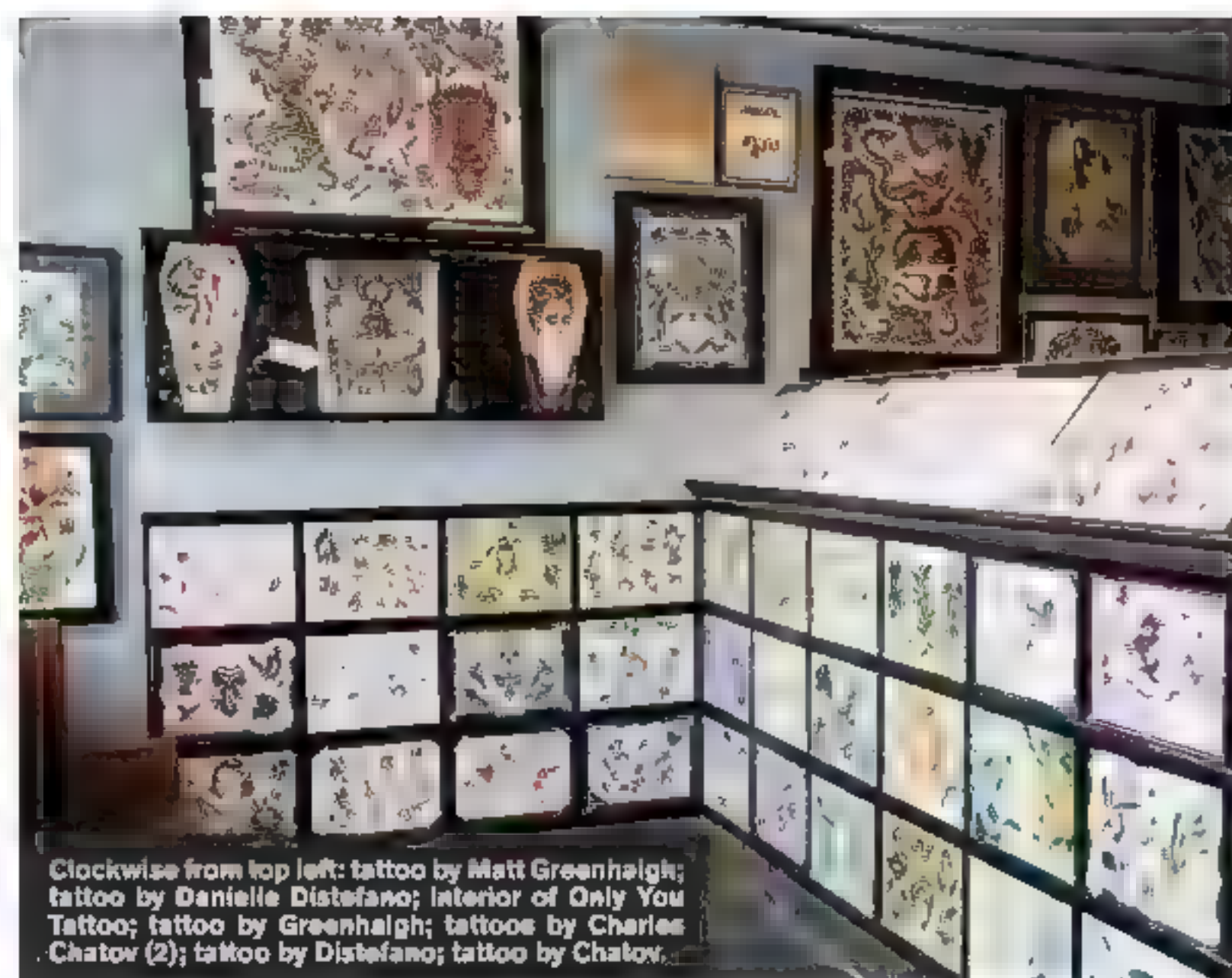
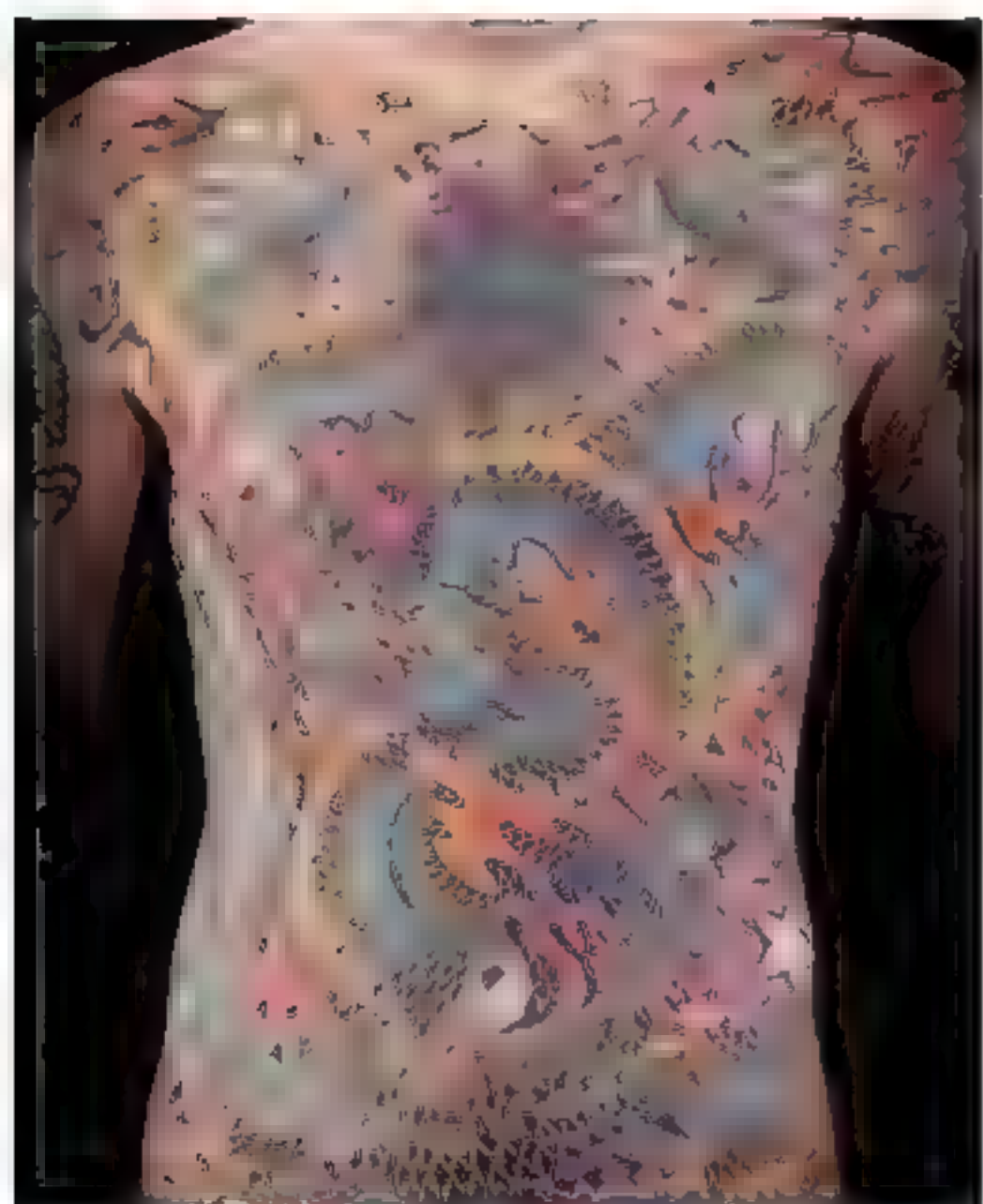
BY LAMT BUESS
PORTRAIT AND INTERIOR BY
TRAVIS HUGGETT

They may not be Batman and Robin, but Danielle Distefano and Matt Greenhalgh are still crusaders. They don't fight crime in the dark recesses of a city like Gotham, but they use their talents to create artistic communities. Upstarts Art Shows, showcasing up-and-coming tattooers' artwork, was one such endeavor created by Greenhalgh in New York in 2003. He almost abandoned the project after a year but then enlisted Distefano's help to continue. Upstarts went from exhibiting the artwork of 13 artists to more than 100 artists' handiwork under Distefano's tutelage. "Producing that show for us in many ways was a defining experience. We had a part in creating a very special time for a group of tattooers working in the city—a real sense of community was created for some of us," Greenhalgh says. "I may have created that show but without Danielle coming on board it never would have become what it did."

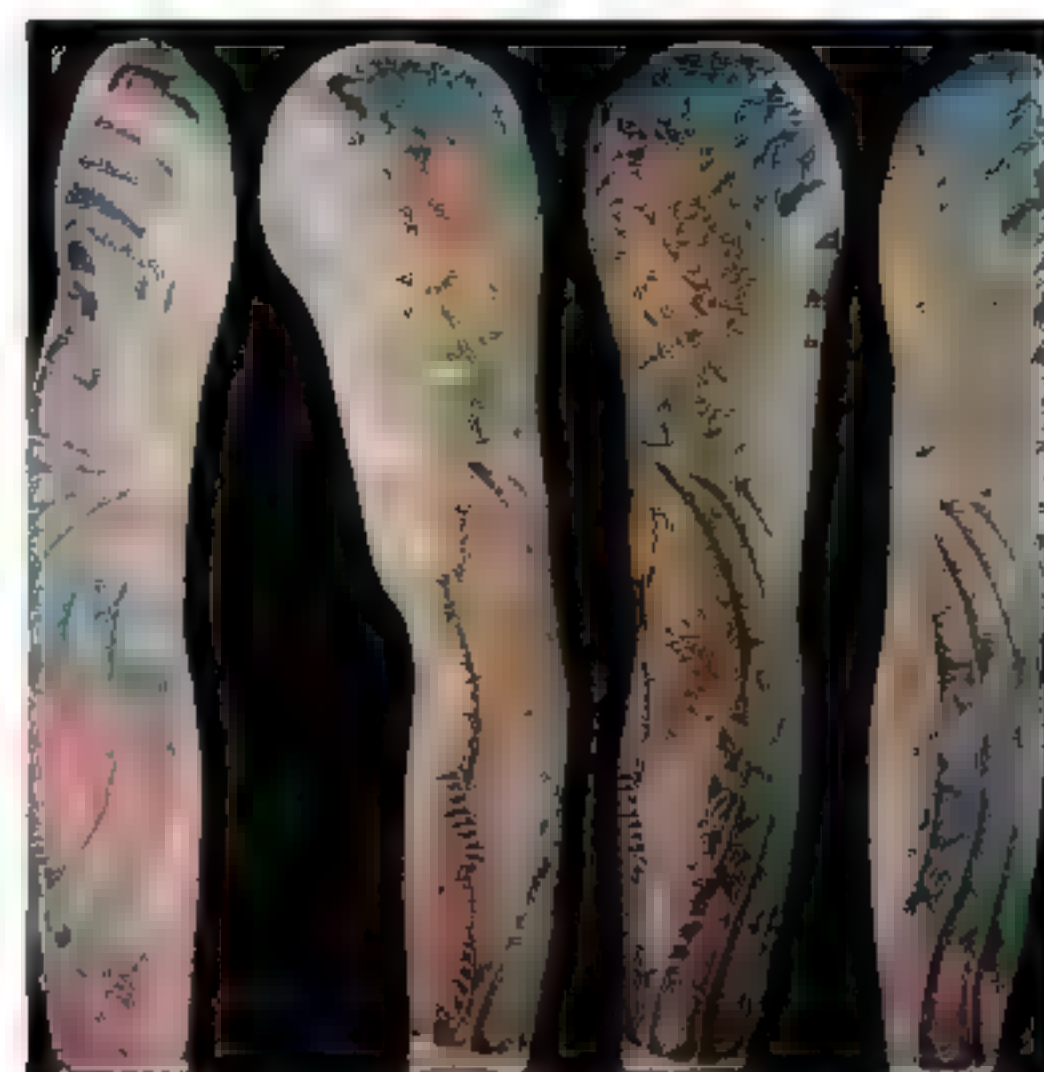
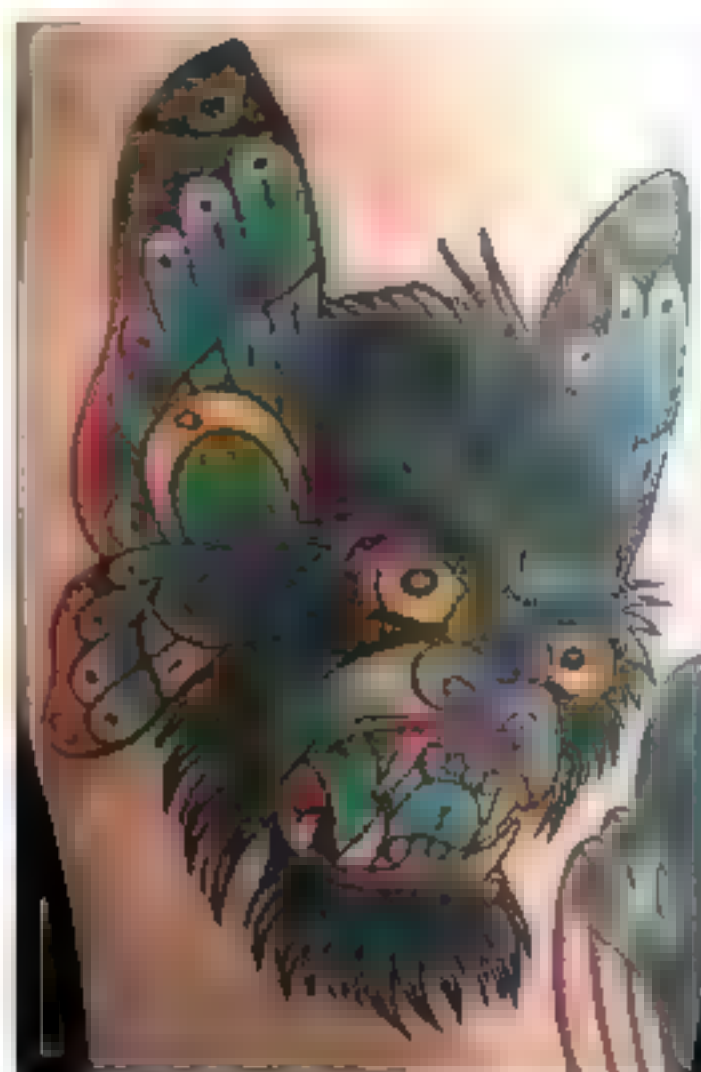
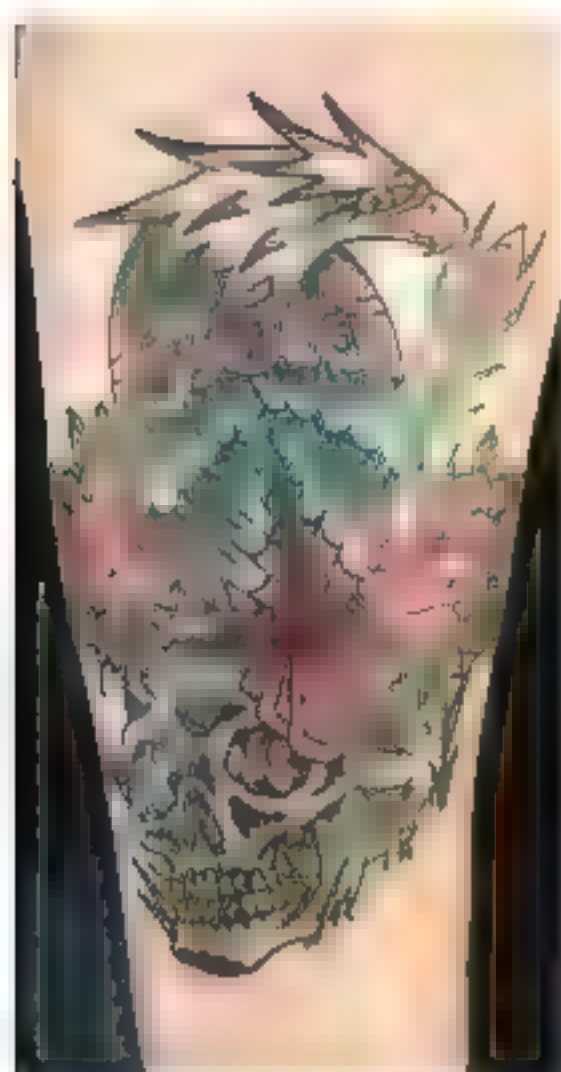
That fond affinity for one another not only helped forge Upstarts but also Only You Tattoo in Atlanta, which opened in 2009 and is located in the historic neighborhood of Grant Park, home of the Cyclo-

rama, one of the largest oil paintings in the world. The shop—the first to open in the area—stands among farmer's markets, bars, bike shops, even a cemetery and a zoo. "We both wanted to build something for our futures, and co-owning the shop made sense after working on so many other projects together in the past," says Distefano of opening shop with her sidekick. "We worked in some really great places over the years, but we wanted something to call our own."

As far as stints at other shops go, the two friends followed similar career trajectories. Greenhalgh apprenticed with Ruby Leblanc and then Don Lusier, both based in Rhode Island. He eventually landed in New York working at shops like Fun City, Daredevil, and High Roller. Distefano got her start at New York City's Sacred Tattoo with pioneer Kate Hellenbrand, who was schooled under Sailor Jerry, and subsequently scored a station at High Roller and Daredevil. "Before getting involved in owning a shop together we were able to learn about each other's work ethics and personalities," says Green-



Clockwise from top left: tattoo by Matt Greenhalgh; tattoo by Danielle Distefano; interior of Only You Tattoo; tattoo by Greenhalgh; tattoos by Charles Chatov (2); tattoo by Distefano; tattoo by Chatov.



halgh. "We have a good balance by bringing different things to the table, like Danielle paying the bills to keep the shop open, and [me] showing up on time to have the shop actually open."

Though New York served as the epicenter for their formative tattooing careers, Atlanta has become the permanent home for these business partners. They founded Only You with only clients in mind, emphasizing honesty as an essential work ethic. While some shop owners revel in expanding their brand like a fast food chain, Distefano and Greenhalgh refuse to lose the intimacy at Only You. "Our goal is not to open a second or third location," says Distefano. "We want to grow, but not by adding more shops to the city. We want to have a strong lineup and continue to do good tattoos that we are proud of."

For Greenhalgh that means doing tattoos that are beyond him. "Not in the sense that they are beyond my capabilities," he explains. "But in the sense that they are rooted designs, images, and styles that reach further back than a current trend or my own self-indulgent sense of style or ego."

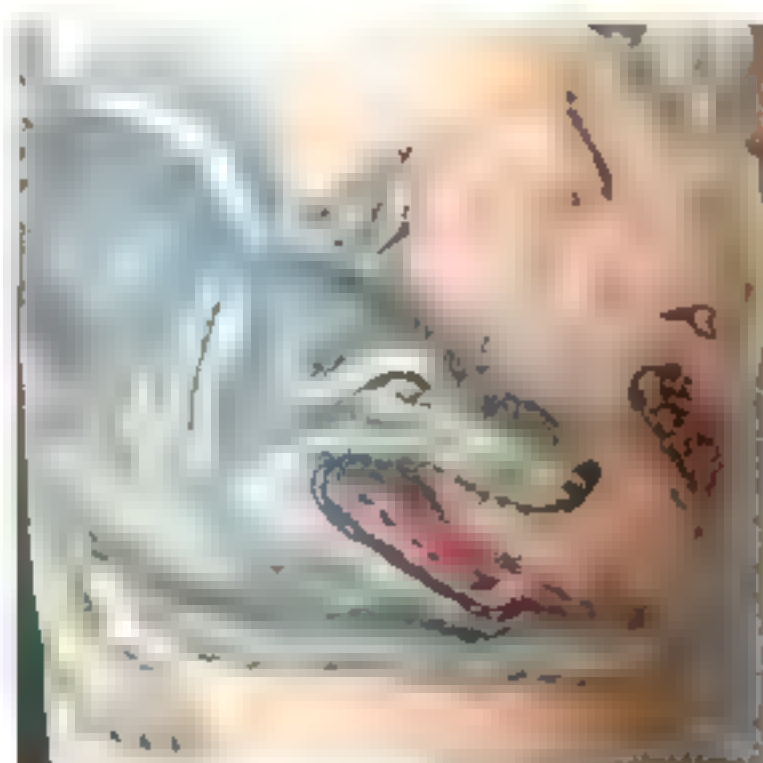
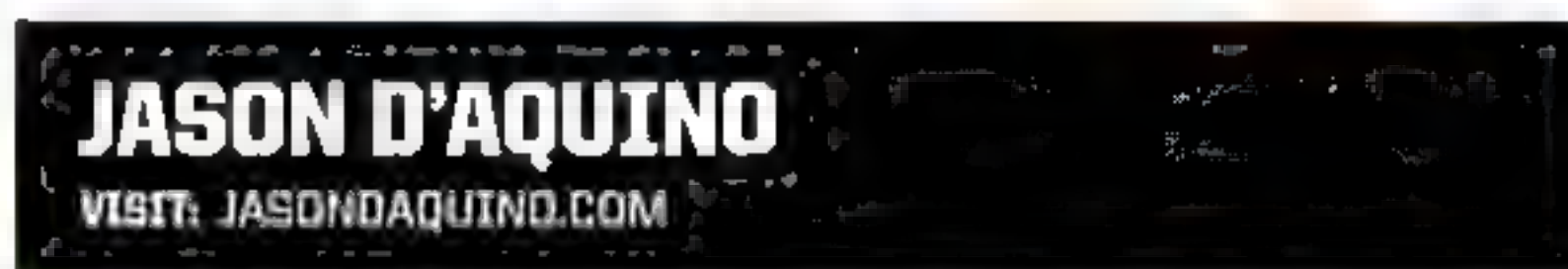
With a focus on Japanese and traditional tattooing, Greenhalgh simply wants to create timeless tattoos that age with grace.

Distefano, who was discouraged from getting tattoos by her family growing up, now dabbles in it all. She adapts her style to meet the needs of her clients, who range from skateboarders to yoga moms to suburban families. With Only You, Distefano has managed to etch her mark in a male-dominated career in which "there are always comments and jokes," she says. "But as a woman in this industry, you have to be able to pay with the boys and stand your own."

For the crew at Only You, there's no better way to make that bold statement than sculpting into someone's skin. It's the only medium that acutely consumes Greenhalgh. "If I wasn't a tattooer I don't know that I would be an artist," he says.

"I love that it is something you have to earn," adds Distefano. "Anyone can buy a piece of artwork, but sitting through the pain of a tattoo is a rite of passage." ■





You do some pretty insane pencil drawings. What's the difference between those and your tattoos? Working on skin is quite different from working on paper. There are certain limitations with living tissue. Scale, for one. [On skin] I could not create at the same miniature scale and have any reasonable expectations of longevity. I do enjoy working with color, though, which is something I rarely get to do in my pencil drawings. I have an increasing number of clients approaching me to have my original graphite drawings permanently tattooed on them. So that's fun. That's where the two mediums are really coming together for me.

Do you prefer to work on a miniature scale or a larger scale? It really depends on my mood. I enjoy working in miniature, but it can be a bit taxing, and it's pretty hard on the eyes. In a lot of ways, the process is like meditation. It requires intense concentration, patience, and stillness. When I am making particularly precise marks, I am not even breathing. By the time I complete it, my hand is like a caged animal. It wants to move. It wants to fly all over

the place. That's when I sketch out ideas for larger drawings. That stuff creates itself sometimes. In fact, the basic concepts for most of my larger drawings were scratched out in a matter of minutes. So I guess one way of working feeds the other discipline and concentration for a spell—and then, alternately, a bit of playful mischief.

Which artists influence you the most? Some of my favorites are Hans Belmer, Maurice Sendak, and Henry Darger—all for different reasons.

What advice do you have for aspiring tattoo artists? Learn how to use the tools, but be original. It's the scariest thing to do—being yourself. I always believed tattooing was meant to be about personal expression. When I see these dudes all getting the same crap—stuff that their favorite professional wrestler has, or some rapper—that's conformity. As an artist, you have a level of responsibility to your clients. You should try to steer them clear of the cliché stuff. You are the keeper of the cool. Just don't be a dick about it. ■

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NAME: Nikki Forte

CONVENTION GIRL FOR:

Truth and Triumph, Dayton, OH

THE TRUTH AND TRIUMPH shops—there are three of them—are awesome! Each one has character and is very comfortable to visit. The artists are truly artists in many forms; they are a highly talented group of guys who have really raised the bar for what people expect a tattooer to deliver.

ANY TIME THEY HAVE AN EVENT at one of the three shops or in town I come show support. When I travel to the conventions I promote the shops, trying to bring as much attention over to the guys working as possible.

CONVENTIONS ARE A BLAST! I do tattoo shows, horror shows, and Comic-Cons, mostly. I also host events at car shows. Meeting new people and signing books or photos is a lot of fun and yet very humbling. It's also a great platform to share ideas with others who do what I do and love the same things I love.

ALL BUT TWO OF THE TATTOO ARTISTS

I've gotten work from have come out of T&T, so about 90 percent of my work has come out of there. My favorite is the sleeve being worked on by Brian Brenner, which is a collection of Asian-inspired artwork. From the top down it's a crane surrounded by cherry blossom branches coming out of a murky swamp and flowing into a dark underwater scene of a large "mama" koi and smaller "baby" koi fish.



Know a stellar shop assistant who keeps the autoclave humming and the tattoo stations organized? E-mail us at shopgirl@inkedmag.com.

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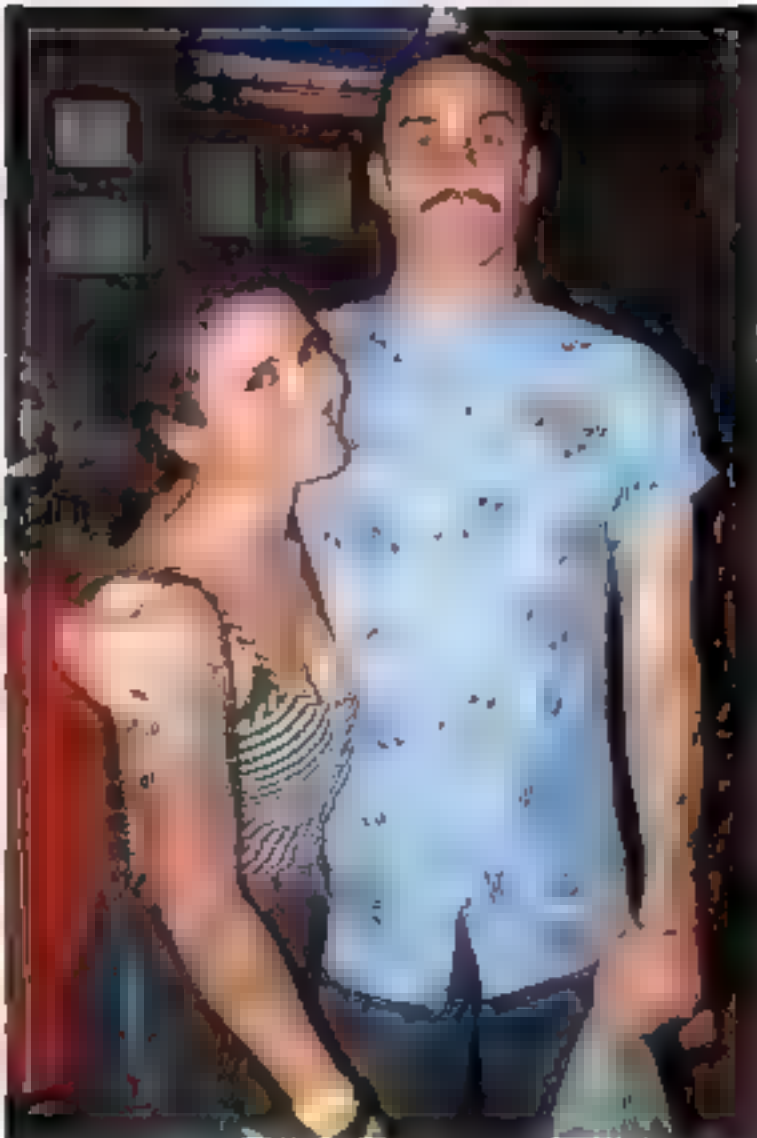


facebook.com/tattooshow

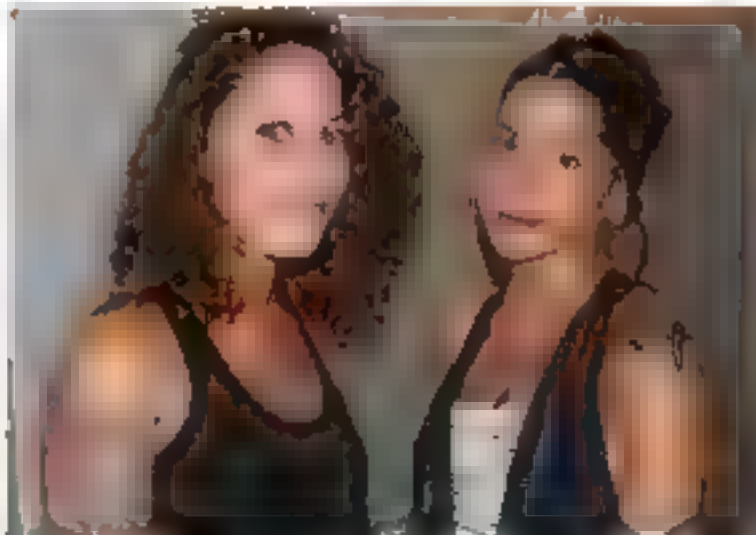
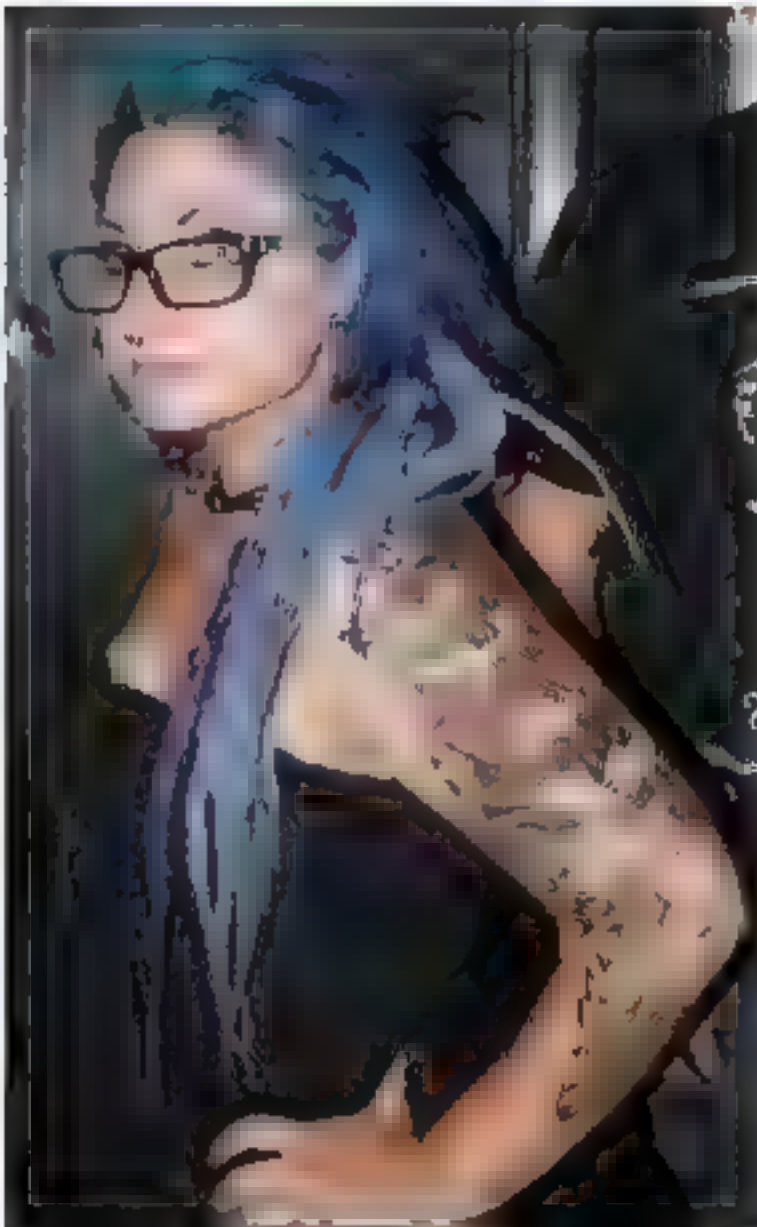
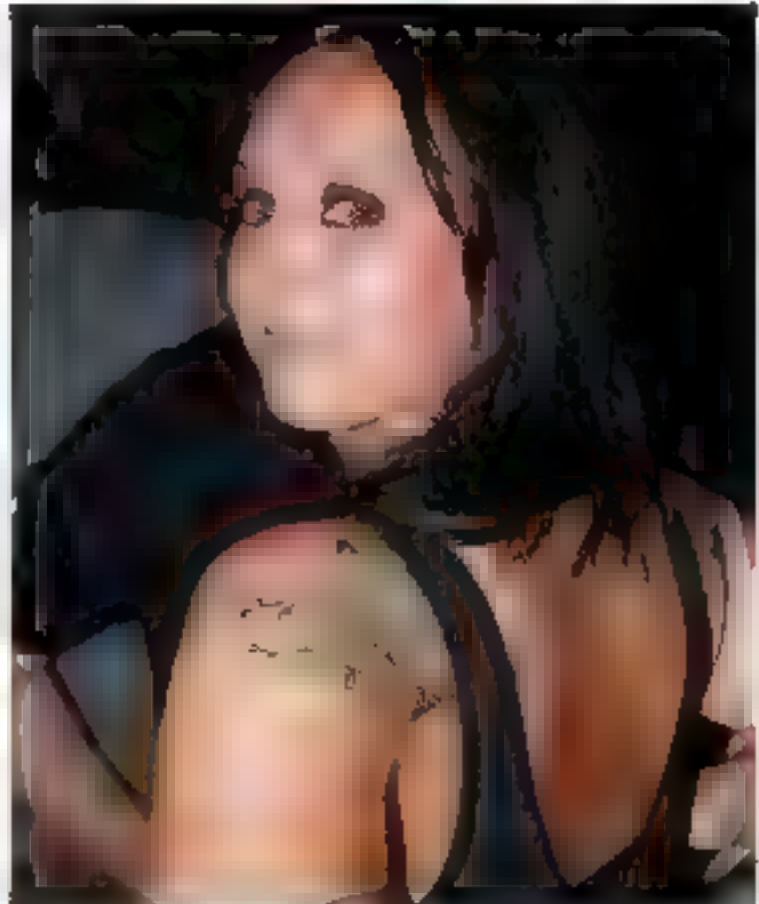


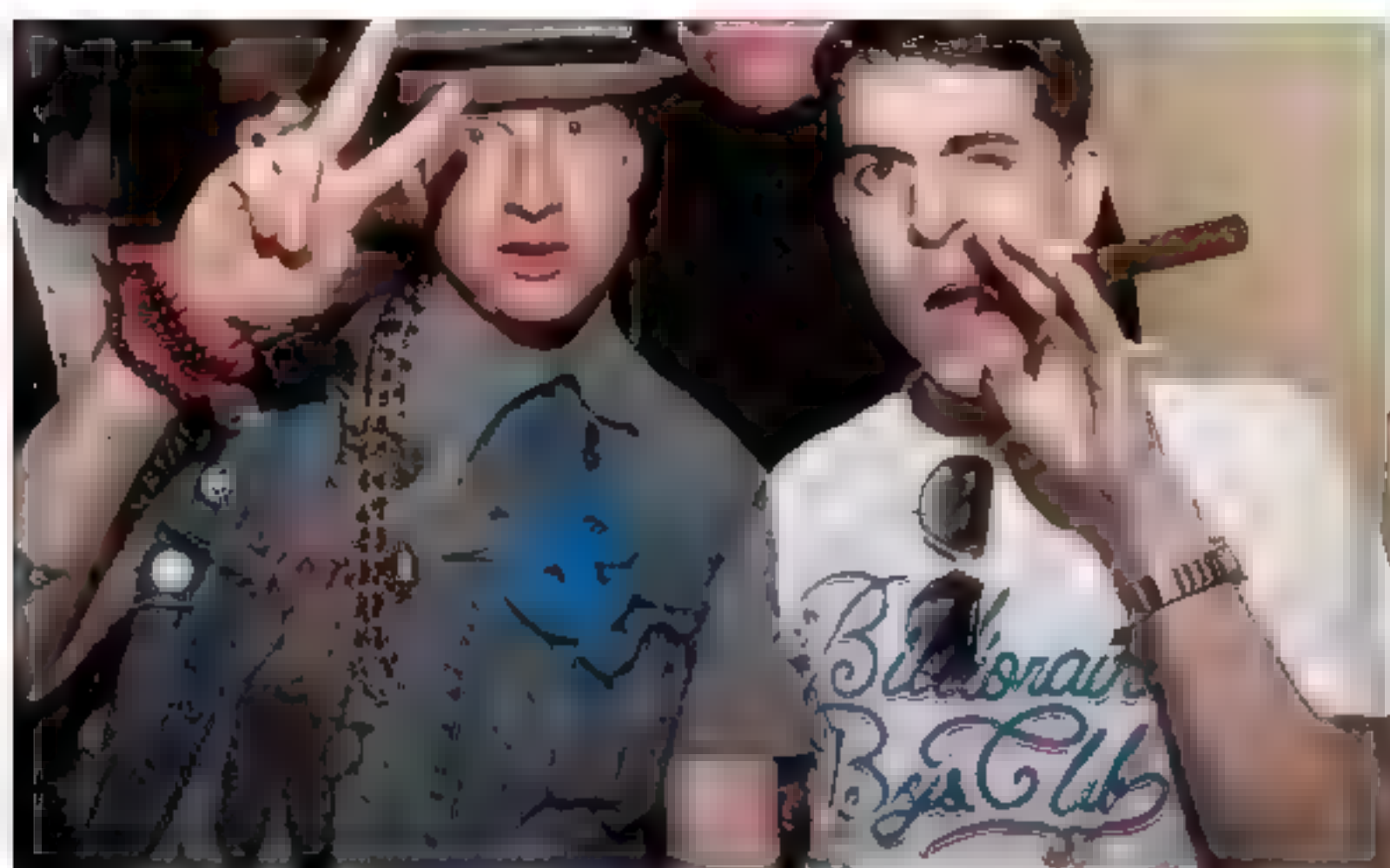
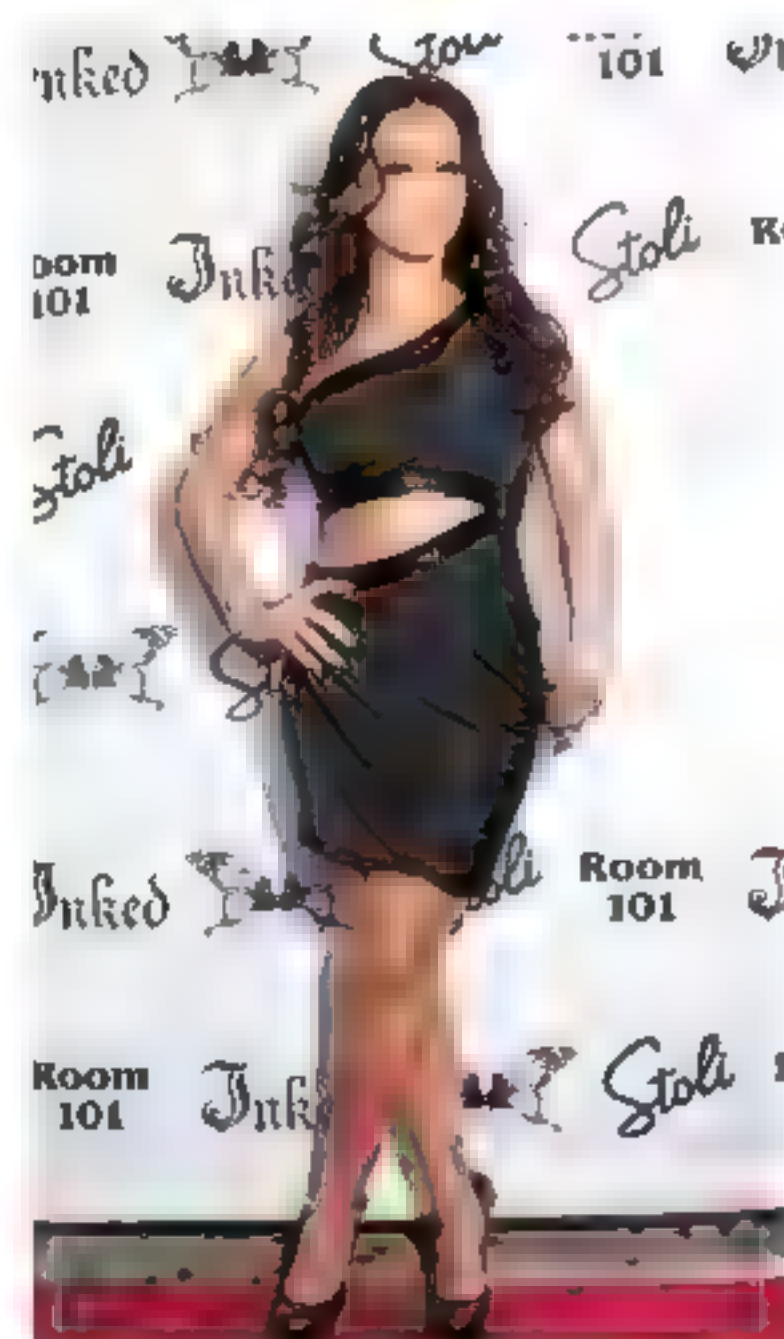
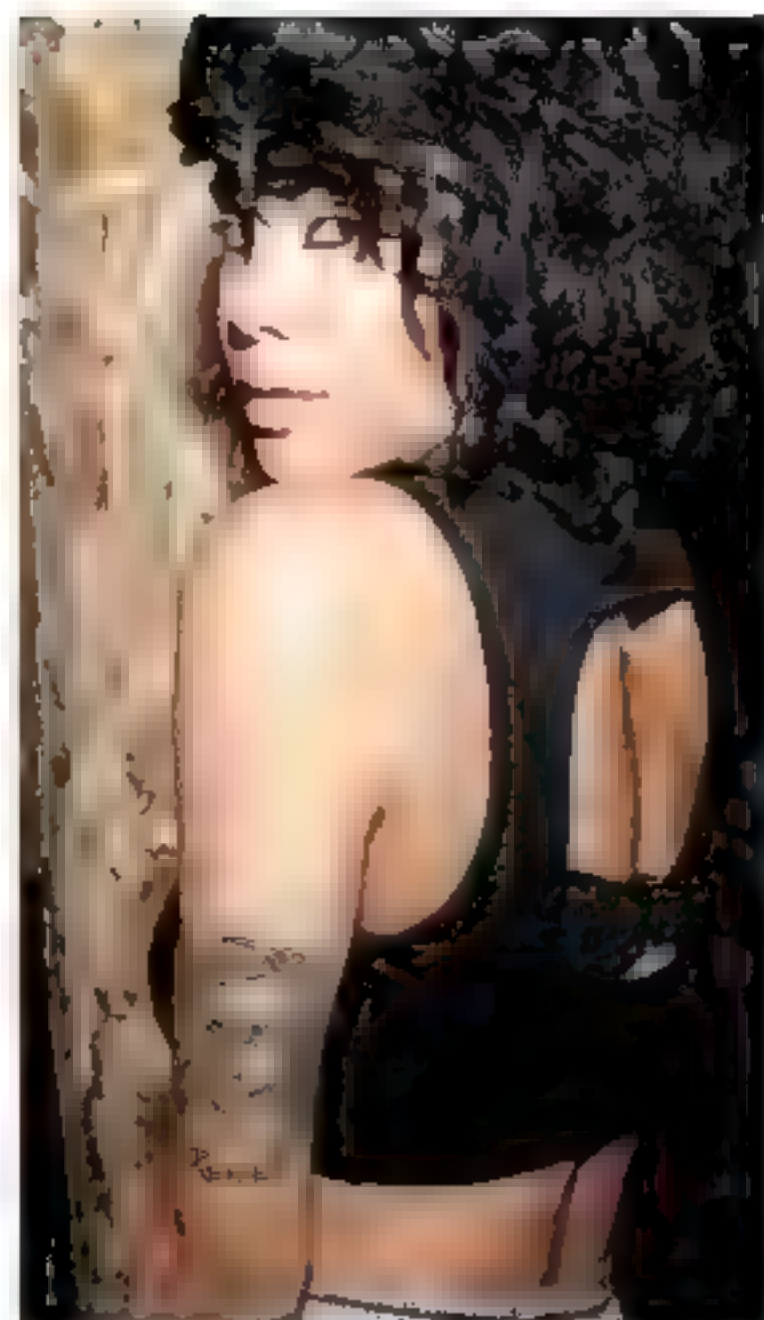
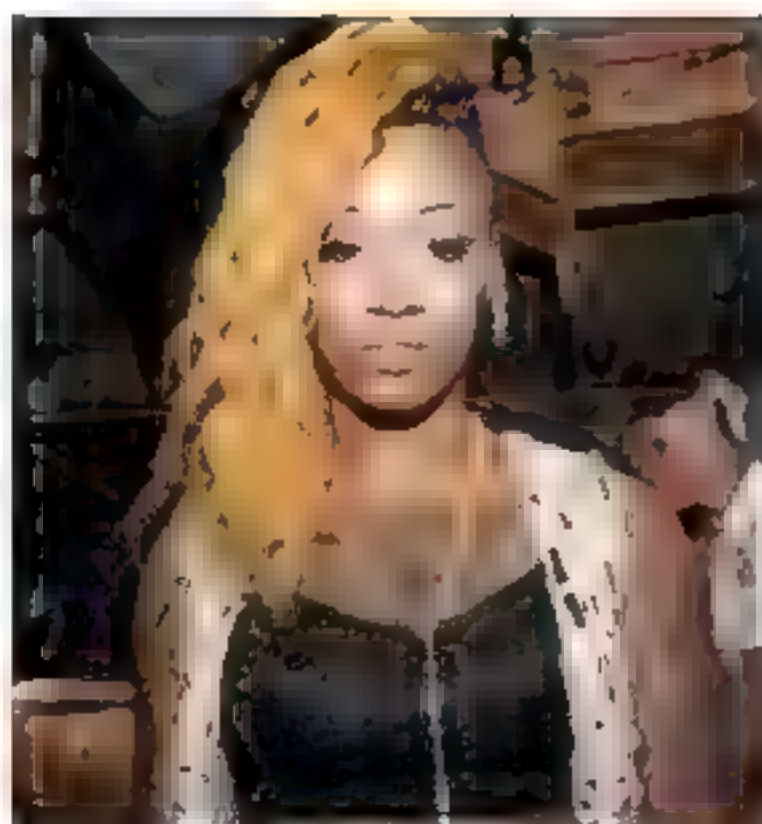
twitter.com/tattooexpo

TATTOO ARTIST MONI MARINO FROM ITALY

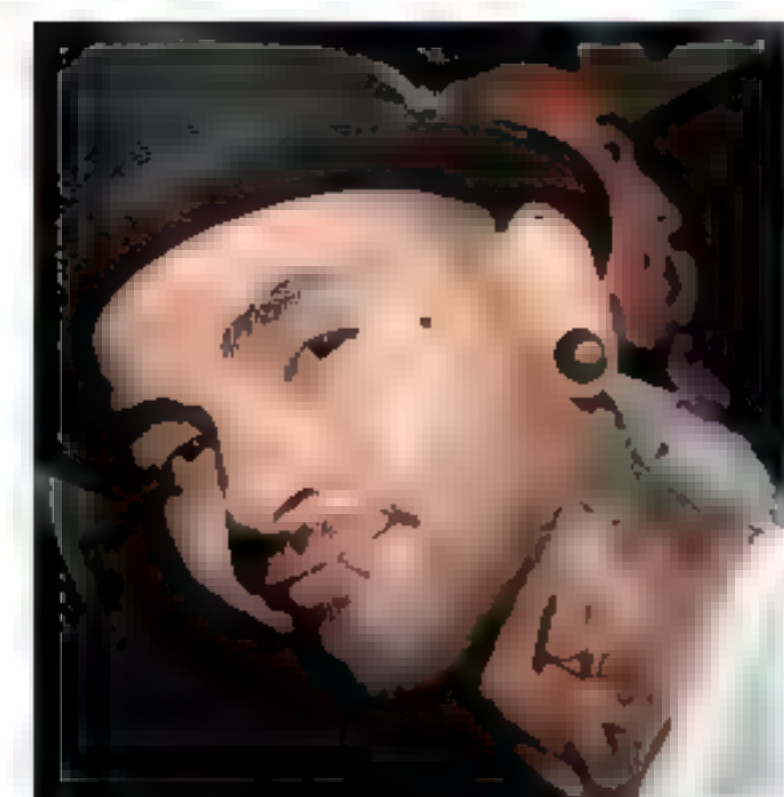
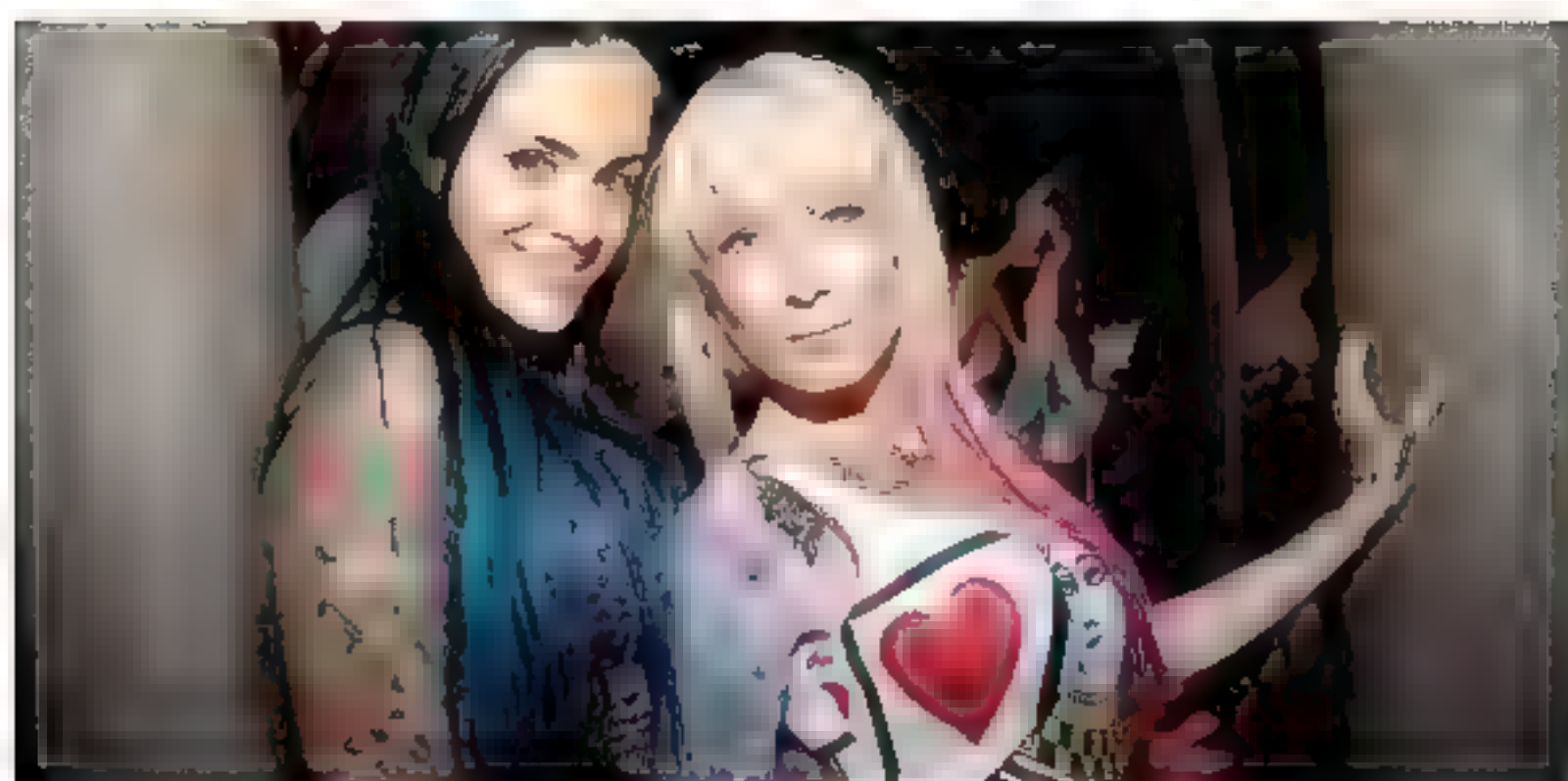
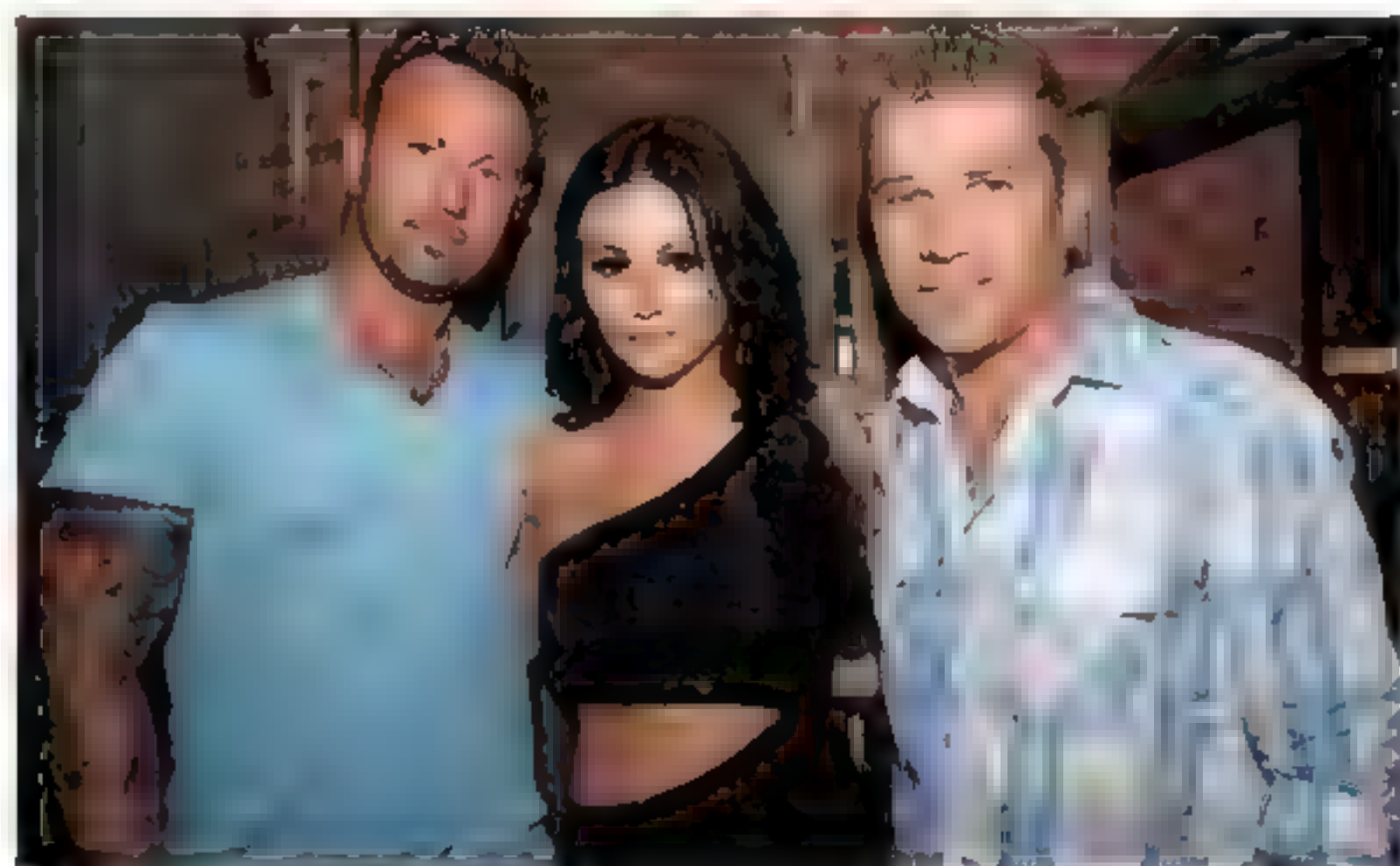


GLASSJAW AT IRVING PLAZA
Once a month we take time away from the office and the tattoo shops we normally hang in to rock out during a Live Nation show. Recently we caught an epic performance by Glassjaw at Irving Plaza in New York City. This month: The INKED Magazine Music Tour!





INKED AUGUST ISSUE RELEASE PARTY
 Our August cover girl and starlet of *Jersey Shore*, Jenni "JWoww" Farley hosted the issue's release party at Kiss & Fly in New York City's Meatpacking district. The INKED crowd (including her boyfriend, Roger Matthews) quaffed Stoli, puffed Room 101 cigars, and Jersey Turnpiked to the sounds provided by DJ Nina Sky.



Inked

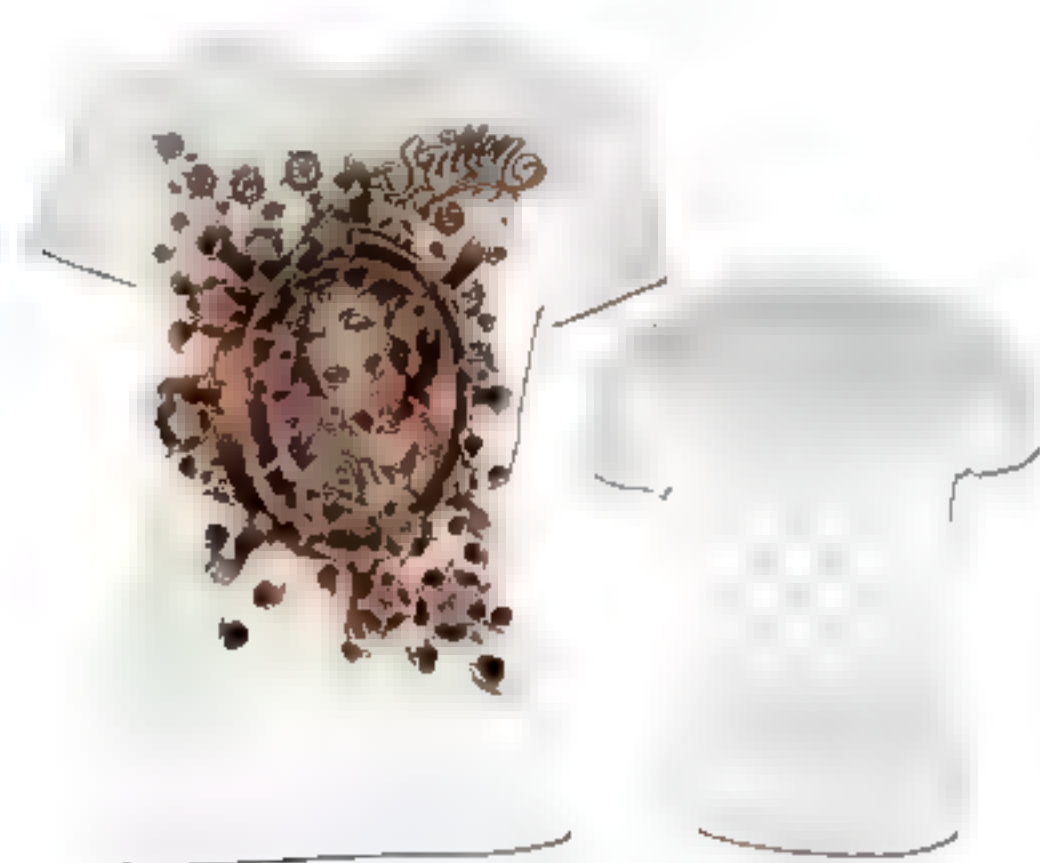
EMBRACE
THE
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INKED SHOP



ONE HOT WALKER

Bored to death of all this zombie apocalypse talk? Never! Kill It Clothing has created an entire Zombie Collection including this tee (\$21.95, inkedshop.com) featuring one badass zombie chick.



THIS AIN'T HALF BAD

Who said the evil twin has to be the bad one? This Evil Twin T-Shirt (\$31, inkedshop.com) by Sullen and Tyler Bredeweg looks as good to us.



GRIM KEEPING, SAFE REAPING

Let your valuables rest in peace in this Skully Runaway Purse (\$32, inkedshop.com) by Sourpuss Clothing.



SPIDEY SENSES TINGLING

The perfect accessory for Marvel's Black Widow or Spider Woman—this spider necklace (\$25.95, inkedshop.com) by Kitsch "N" Kouture is cool all year long.



THE DEVIL WEARS PLEASER

Devil, French maid, vampire: Whatever your costume of choice may be this year, the Inked Shop has got you covered. Browse the collection of shoes or take a closer look at this stunner from Pleaser (\$110, inkedshop.com)



COME ONE, COME ALL!

The Amazing Tattooed Lady vintage metal sign (\$24.95, inkedshop.com) by Retro-a-Go-Go blends classic pinup beauty with 1900s circus sideshow appeal.



TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

The silhouette of our favorite bride, immortalized in an oval frame—complete with bats on top—makes for one necklace that's truly to die for. Available now (\$19.95, inkedshop.com).



PROFESSOR PLUM, IN THE KITCHEN, WITH ...

The wrench: This sterling silver ring (\$105, inkedshop.com) by Spragwerks is one of many awesome rings in the Inked Shop. Check out these designs and other great pieces available now.



COIF TO KILL

Se7en Deadly made these ominous yet adorable hair bows (\$14.95 each, inkedshop.com) for the dark and daring fashion risk-takers.



WE'RE ALL MAD HERE

The perfect un(birthday) present, this Akumu Ink T-shirt (\$25.95, inkedshop.com) features a nightmarish version of our favorite crazed, old-timey party host.



THE HORROR! THE HORROR!

LA 1967 created this top (\$29.95, inkedshop.com) for all you classic horror movie lovers! Then again, "Everyone's entitled to one good scare" —Norma Watson, *Halloween H20*.



RUSSELL KELLEY

Silk City Tattoo, 7 Garfield Ave., Hawthorne, NJ, 07506, russellkelley.com and silkcittytattoo.com

Tattooing out of one of north Jersey's most venerable shops, Russell Kelley creates bold but intricate designs with a sure hand and a contrast from light to dark ink. "Black ink makes the colors jump out, and the black outline should be thick enough to also show that contrast," he says. "If you look at an old WWII vet's tattoos, they may be faded, but you could still make out what the image is supposed to be. I think quality and longevity are my two aims when I tattoo." Taking from the old but propelling tattoo art forward, the neo-traditional inker uses his gift as a present to his clients and the world at large. "I feel like when I design a tattoo for someone, that's my gift to them." When designing his own final piece—his gravestone—he's going to go with the *Ghostbusters* symbol with a banner that reads, "I came, I saw, I kicked some ass."



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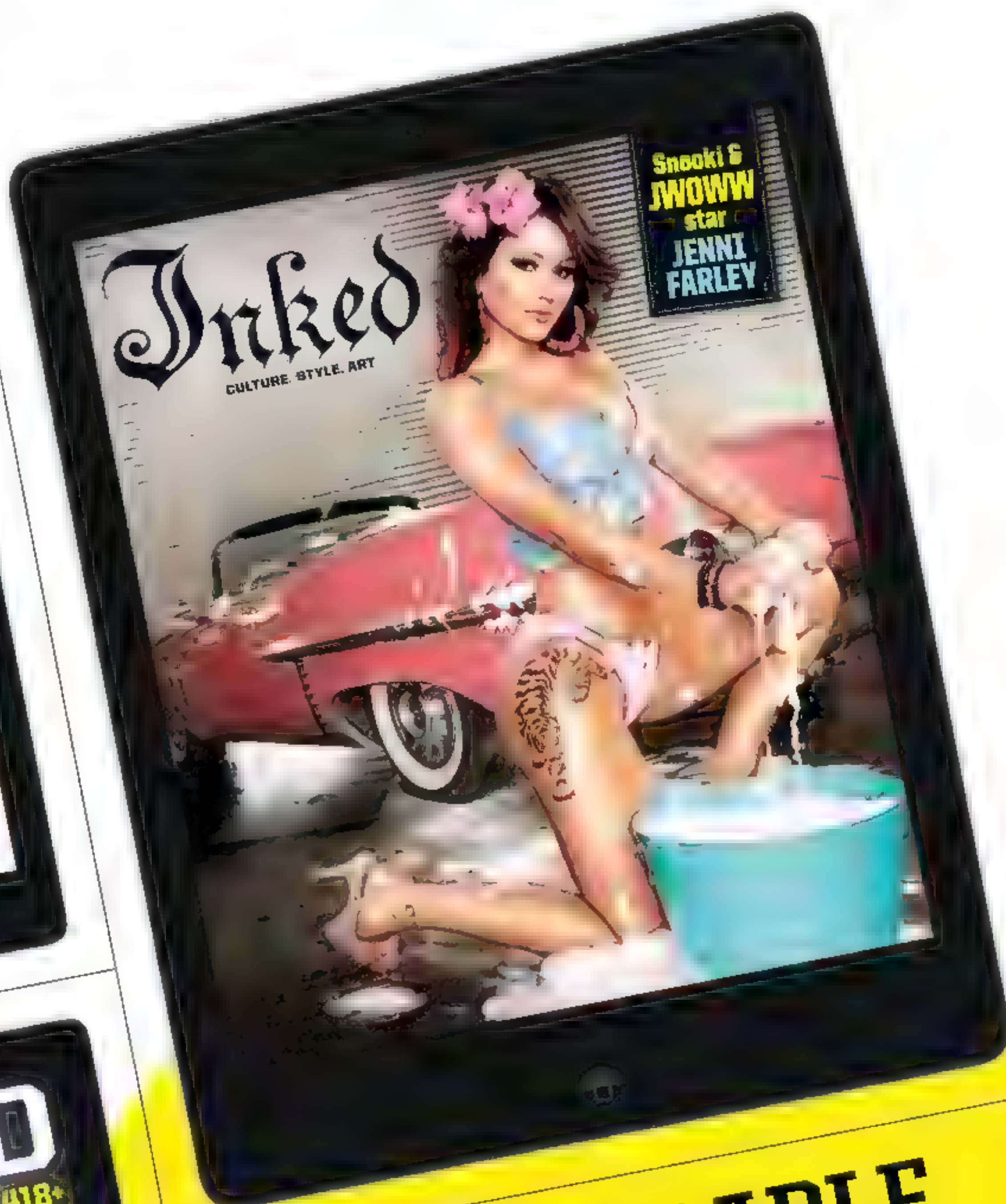
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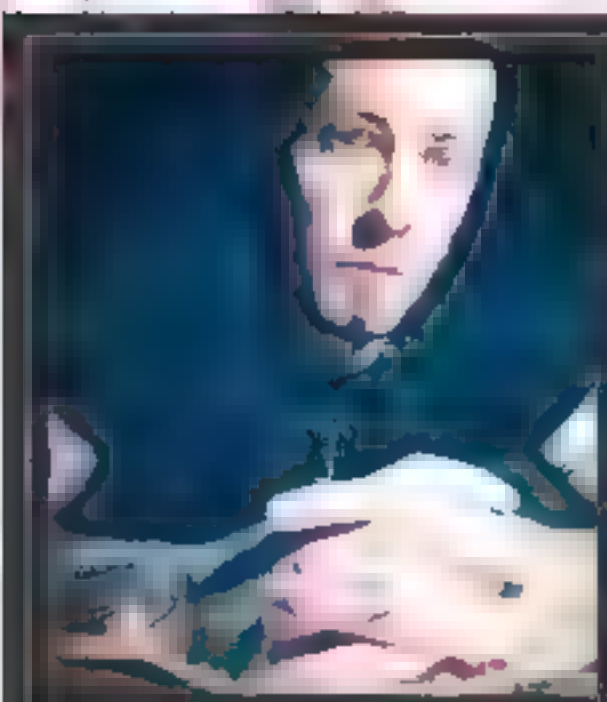
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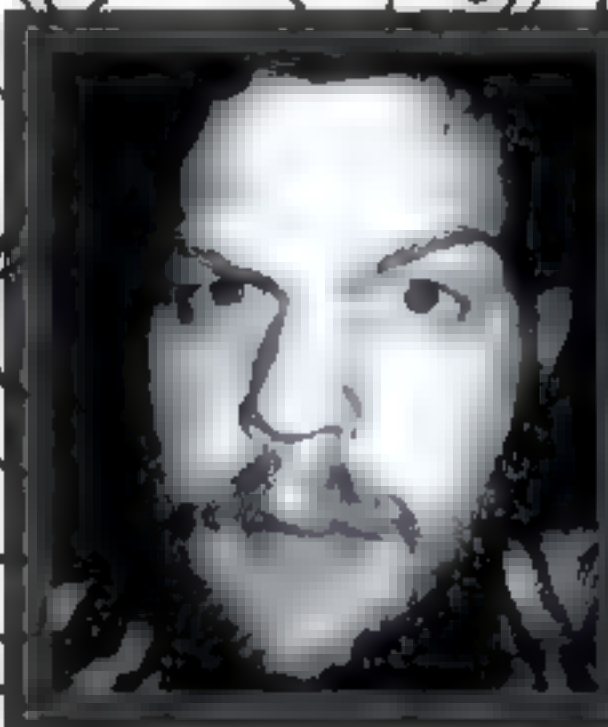


MIKE MOSES

Thicker Than Water Tattoo, 181 Ave. B, New York City, thedrowntown.com, sufferme.tumblr.com

Mike Moses creates clean-lined, fantastical art, and recently made the move from Richmond, VA, to New York City. "Manhattan is the same as Richmond—people in both cities take a lot of pride in what they do," he says. But he's come a long way. "As part of my apprenticeship I had to tattoo myself before I was allowed to work on anyone else. I picked this half-dollar-sized rose that was drawn by my mentor, Fred Pinckard. He would make a line, I would make a line, then we would stop, smoke a cigarette, talk about it for five to 10 minutes, then repeat. Two packs of cigarettes later, my swollen, bruised, bleeding, blown-out, amazing rose was done. I limped for a month—pretty sure if I die in a fire, they'll still know it's me." And when the fire comes, what would he like on his gravestone? "It's hard to put things on unmarked graves, but if you happen to find a few pieces of me. I suppose I'm partial to strawberries. Yup, strawberries."





ROSS CARLSON

Optic Nerve Arts, 1229 NE Alberta St., Portland, OR, opticnervearts.com and
Art Work Rebels, 510A NW 23rd Ave., Portland, OR, artworkrebels.com

This Portland tattooer thinks of himself as a hired gun. "When I tattoo I'm trying to create a paycheck. I've got a foreign wife and two dick cats to feed," Ross Carlson says. "Tattooing is a service job; we create what the customer wants as best we can. Sometimes it's a rad skull and dagger; other times it's a tribal football. My favorite tattoo genre is traditional Americana and Japanese—Japacana, if you will." Though he sometimes makes art for himself, he values his customer. "One form of art pays my bills, and the other sits in the corner of my office neglected and covered in dust." And when the grim reaper comes for his final check, Carlson would like a skull and dagger on his headstone that reads, "I'll thank you kindly not to loot my corpse. P.S. I have a solid gold coffin."



RSC
2011



JOE MAHER (A.K.A PEPPER)

Graceland Tattoo, 2648 E. Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY, gracelandtattoo.com

During the day he is Joe Maher, an art director for a premium financial magazine in Manhattan. Then, at night, he puts on his tattoo gloves and turns into Pepper. "I'm a thinker, and art is what I use for getting those thoughts out there," he says. "I like to work with my hands, but I also like to be creative and use my mind. Tattooing is a perfect storm. I try to make something that's visually appealing at first glance. I always look at the composition and balance first." While his two lives seem unorthodox for a tattooer, his favorite genre is more traditional. "I love traditional because it is bold and timeless and really feels like what a tattoo is supposed to be," Pepper says. "The guys that have come long before my time figured it out, and I'm going to spend a lifetime trying to figure it out for myself." And when that lifetime is through he wants his gravestone to have an image of a traditional hand holding an envelope that reads *Return to Sender*.





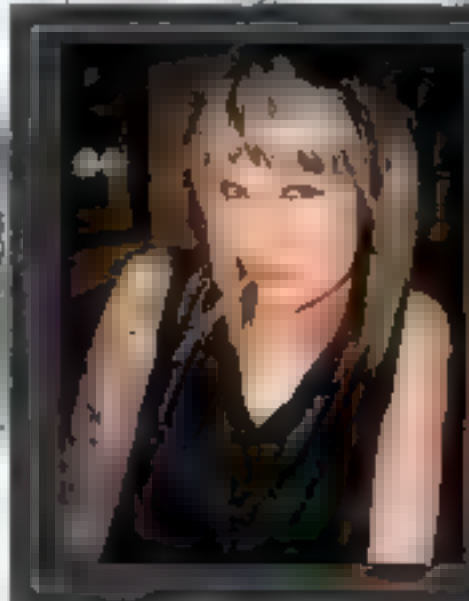


JAVIER VALADEZ

The Ink Spot Tattoo Shop, 1718 East Valley Pkwy, Escondido, CA, theinkspottattooshop.com, metalmulisha.com

"I was into tattoo and graffiti-style art since I was in elementary school," Javier Valadez says. "Being a graffiti artist got me into the habit of writing and drawing on anything and everything. Tattooing intrigued me because it was permanent," he says of his artistic start. After apprenticing under Roy "Loy Loy" Leyva in California, Valadez knew that tattooing was the right path for him. "Tattoos give me a motivation and drive I don't get from any other medium. I feel that every piece has a purpose; it becomes a part of someone. It's not just up on a wall or stored in a sketchbook." Valadez also earns a paycheck by designing for the SoCal clothing company Metal Mulisha. "I design the baseball caps and some of the T-shirts, the majority of which are hand-drawn designs," he says. Asked what his last design—what he wishes for his tombstone—would be, Valadez says he isn't leaving without burning some rubber. "My tombstone would be a lowered 1950 Chevy pickup truck."



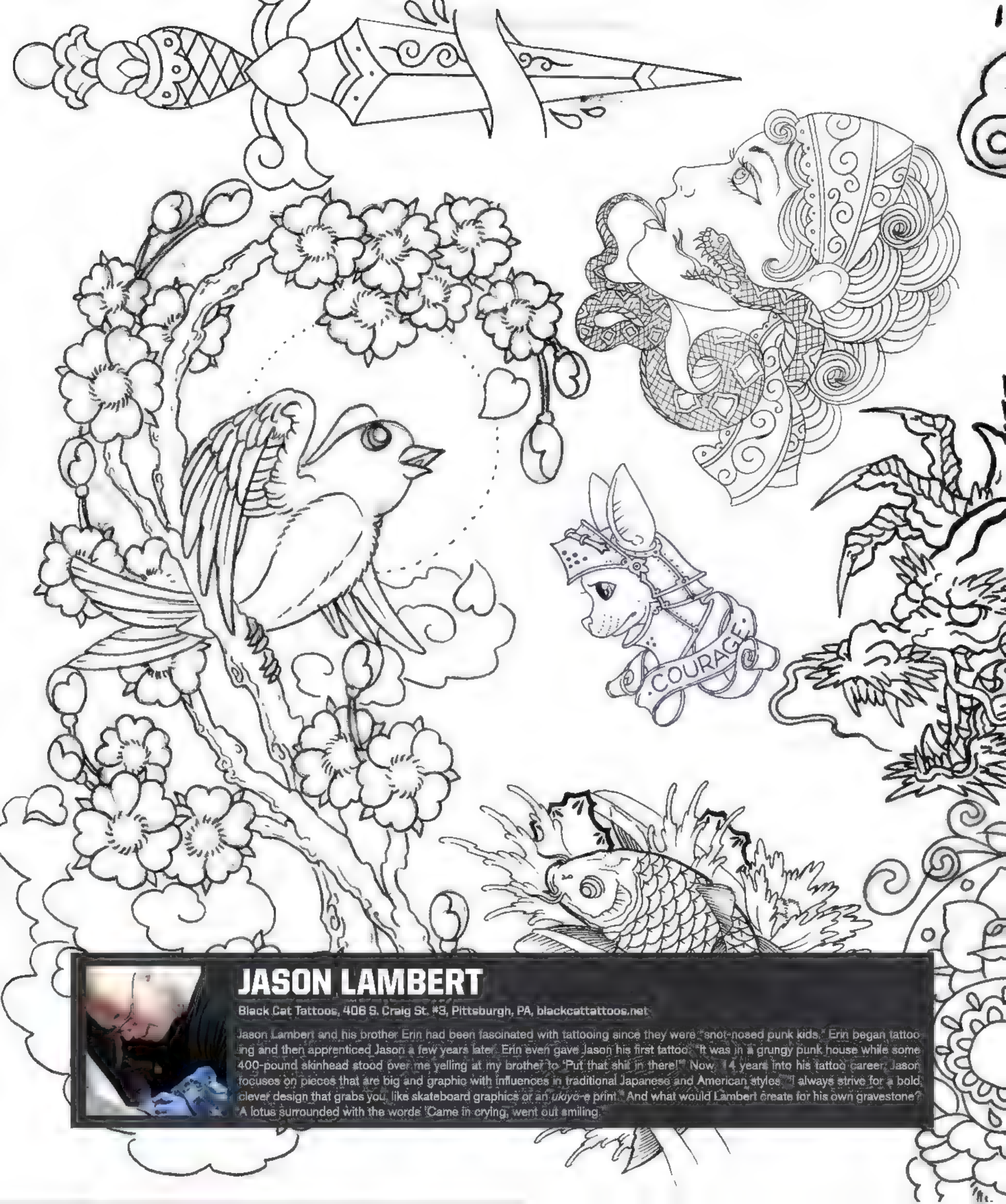


BECCA MACDONALD

Poison Apple Tattoo Co., 1221-C 7th Ave., Fernie, British Columbia, poisonappletattoo.ca

Fed up with tattoo shop politics, artist Becca MacDonald opened her own spot in the ski resort of Fernie, British Columbia in 2009. "I was more concerned with keeping my artistic integrity and improving my skills than dealing with all that other drama," she says. The ability to concentrate has paid off, as MacDonald is getting noticed for colorful traditional work and her brand of "stylized realism." Of her life's work she says, "I have great clients with great ideas and I'm happy to call most of them my friends as well. Tattooing is a very personal experience. I can't think of anything better than someone giving me their complete trust to make my mark permanently on them."

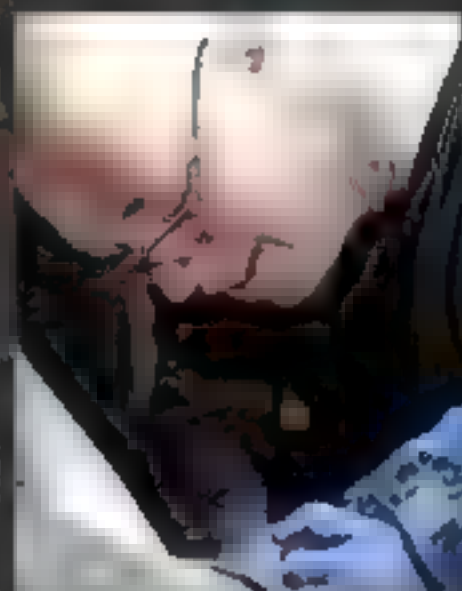




JASON LAMBERT

Black Cat Tattoos, 406 S. Craig St. #3, Pittsburgh, PA, blackcattattoos.net

Jason Lambert and his brother Erin had been fascinated with tattooing since they were "snot-nosed punk kids." Erin began tattooing and then apprenticed Jason a few years later. Erin even gave Jason his first tattoo. "It was in a grungy punk house while some 400-pound skinhead stood over me yelling at my brother to 'Put that shit in there!'" Now 14 years into his tattoo career, Jason focuses on pieces that are big and graphic with influences in traditional Japanese and American styles. "I always strive for a bold, clever design that grabs you, like skateboard graphics or an *ukiyo-e* print." And what would Lambert create for his own gravestone? "A lotus surrounded with the words 'Came in crying, went out smiling.'"







*Don't Drag
McDowell*

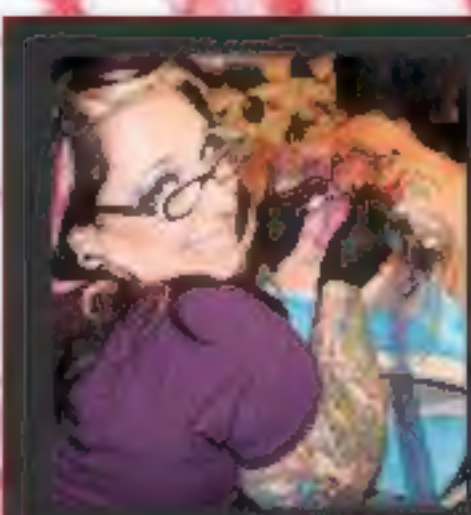


DANNY DERRICK

San Luis Tattoo Arts Company, 90 Higuera St., Suite E, San Luis Obispo, CA, dannyderrick.com

When Danny Derrick set out to be a road-dog tattooer, he learned from one of the best: Craig Beasley, who has toured with everyone from Fall Out Boy to Gym Class Heroes. "I apprenticed under Craig in Valdosta, Georgia," Derrick says. "I moved there from California specifically to study tattooing with him." Derrick counts Russ Abbott, Seth Wood, and Beasley as influences and is ready to follow in his instructor's steps. "I play bass in a band called New Tomorrow. We tour a bunch and I always take my tattoo equipment on the road." Derrick splits his time between pounding the pavement and air (the band just got back from London) and his home shop of San Luis Tattoo where he rocks out illustrative traditional tattoos.

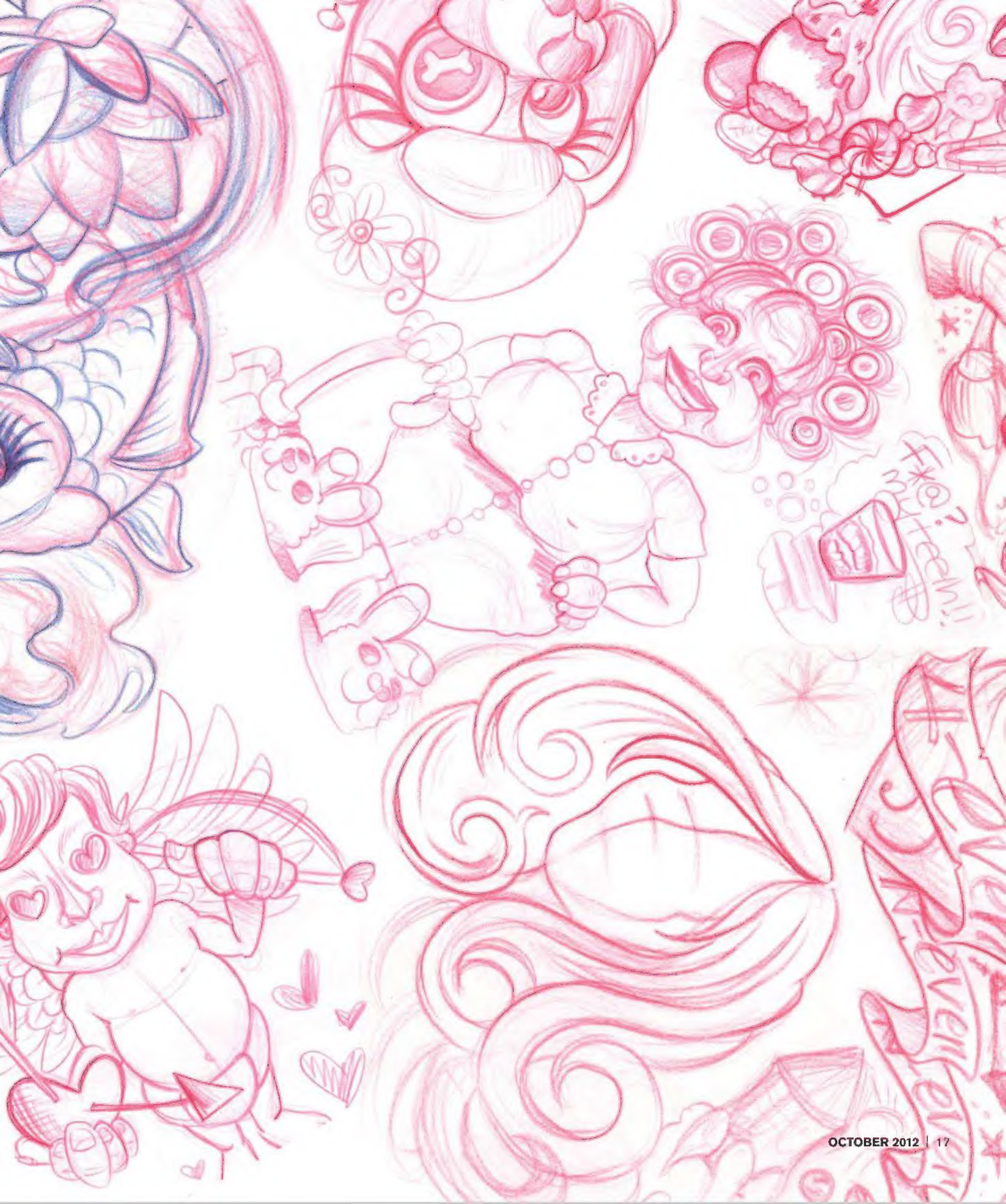




KRISTEL ORETO

Art Machine Productions, 1345 Frankford Ave., Philadelphia, PA, artmachineproductions.com

After more than 10 years in the business, Kristel Oreto still looks up to lots of artists—Dee Dee Seruga, Jesse Smith, and Jime Litwalk among them—but has perfected a bubbly, feminine style all her own. Along with her husband, Joe Tattoo, she cares for her two “wild-ass” kids, considers herself a “proud, big and beautiful woman,” and takes her art on the road, traveling to conventions all over the country. If she had her way, she’d also be collaborating with MAC cosmetics. We wouldn’t be surprised to see it happen soon!





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